

Masks to be mandatory on Auckland public transport and domestic flights

From Thursday 19 November, masks will need to be worn on all public transport in and out of Auckland, and on all domestic flights.

Minister for COVID-19 Response Chris Hipkins will be issuing an Order under the COVID-19 Response Act. The [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Alert Level Requirements\) Amendment Order \(No 4\) 2020](#) will come into force at 11.59pm on Wednesday 18 November.

School buses and charter services are exempt. Children under 12 will not have to wear a mask. Police can enforce the new rules.

Cab drivers and ride-share drivers in Auckland must wear masks, but their passengers don't have to.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said additional precautions were needed under Alert Level 1.

"No system is fool-proof and transmission can occur," Ardern said when explaining why the new measures have been put in place.

Hipkins said they were looking at whether mandatory mask use on public transport should be extended to other areas, and the rules around QR codes.

"The Government is seeking further advice from officials about extending face covering requirements for other centres and introducing mandatory scanning of QR codes in some high-risk situations where contact tracing is challenging," Hipkins said.

Resources:

Masks to be mandatory on Auckland public transport and planes from Thursday
<<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/masks-mandatory-auckland-public-transport-and-planes-thursday>>

See the Government's Unite Against COVID-19 site for more information.

Alert Level 1: <https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-1/>