

19 August 2021

## **New Zealand moves to Alert Level 4; New requirements for mask use**

On Tuesday 17 August 2021, following the discovery of a positive community case, the Government announced that the entire country would move to Alert Level 4 from 11:59 pm that evening.

Along with this latest lockdown, some further requirements for mandatory mask use have been introduced to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 while New Zealand is in this “eliminate” phase.

The Alert Level is set for the Auckland and Coromandel regions as a minimum of seven days and a minimum of three for the rest of the country. The government has also announced that the [Wage Subsidy Scheme](#) and the [Resurgence Support payments](#) will be available to support businesses that are forced to close down in these time frames.

The new mask precautions, which take into consideration the much higher spread rate of the delta variant of COVID-19, make mask use compulsory at Alert Level 4 when accessing essential services. This applies to both staff and customers aged 12 years and up, unless they have an exemption card to show that they have a disability or health condition that prevents them from being able to safely wear a mask.

For more information on face mask use and exemption cards, please see the [Unite Against COVID-19 site](#).

### **Operating at Alert Level 4**

At [Alert Level 4](#) you must stay home, unless you are:

- shopping for groceries;
- accessing necessary healthcare;
- getting a COVID-19 test;
- exercising in your local area; or
- going to work, but only if you are working in an Alert Level 4 service and cannot work from home.

You must wear a face covering and keep 2 metres of physical distance from others when leaving your home.

### **Resources:**

Govt reveals new rules for mask use in level four

<<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/449421/govt-reveals-new-rules-for-mask-use-in-level-four>>

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Wear a face covering < <https://covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/protect-yourself-and-others-from-covid-19/wear-a-face-covering/> > Unite against COVID-19

Govt triggers business support following COVID community case <

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/govt-triggers-business-support-following-covid-community-case> > 17 August 2021

COVID-19 Wage Subsidy August 2021 < <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html> >

COVID-19 Resurgence Support Payment (RSP) < <https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment> >

Alert Level 4 < <https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/alert-level-4/> > Unite Against COVID-19