

Alert levels extended again, with Auckland remaining at alert level 3, rest of NZ at level 2 until August 30

At a press conference on Monday 24 August 2020 Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that Auckland will remain at Alert Level 3, while the rest of the country will remain at Alert Level 2 until 11.59 pm Sunday 30 August 2020. Auckland will then transition to Alert Level 2 meaning that it will be at the same level as the rest of the country. Cabinet will review the Alert Level 2 setting before Sunday 6 September 2020.

Ardern said the rest of the country needed to stay at an elevated alert level to mitigate the risk of cases leaving Auckland when interregional travel resumed. The current cluster was likely to have a long tail, meaning new cases would be uncovered over the coming days and weeks.

“This is a contained cluster but it is our biggest one – that means the tail will be long and the cases will keep coming for a while to come,” Ardern said.

The Government has also mandated the use of masks or face coverings on public transport from Monday onwards.

Ardern said Auckland will “step” its way into level two. This means schools, hospitality, retail and other organisations able to operate at level two can reopen, but there will be a limit on mass gatherings of more than ten people, with the exception of tangihanga and funerals, which can have up to 50 people.

Key information for Auckland and Alert Level 3:

- If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or are unwell, stay home and get in contact with your doctor or Healthline.
- Stay home and within your personal household bubble whenever you are not at school or work or accessing essential services. If you can work or educate from home, please do.
- Maintain physical distancing of 2 metres when you are in public.
- Mask use is highly encouraged.
- You may only travel in and out of the Auckland region if you are returning home to the place that you ordinarily live.

Key information for other regions and Alert Level 2:

- If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or are unwell, stay home and get in contact with your doctor or Healthline.
- Gatherings and events must be less than 100 people and physical distance should be maintained from others when in public – two metres in public and retail stores and one metre in workplaces, cafes, restaurants and gyms.
- Mask use is highly encouraged.

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

Alert Level 3: <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19/restrictions/alert-level-3/>

Alert Level 2: <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19/restrictions/alert-level-2/>

Resources:

Auckland to remain under Level 3 lockdown restrictions until Sunday evening, rest of NZ stays at Level 2 < <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/auckland-remain-under-level-3-lockdown-restrictions-until-sunday-evening-rest-nz-stays-2> >