



Community Link



Whanganui District Council
 101 Guyton Street
 PO Box 637, Whanganui 4500
 06 349 0001
 yourcouncil@whanganui.govt.nz
 www.whanganui.govt.nz
 @whanganuidistrictcouncil
 @whanganuidc
 @WhanganuiDC

COVID-19 UPDATE

Whanganui District Council has responded to the Government's announcement that it is moving to Alert Level Four at **midnight on Wednesday, 25 March 2020**, by making further changes to its levels of service.

The moves are intended to minimise contact during the current COVID-19 situation in line with the Government's requirements while ensuring the provision of essential services: drinking and waste water, solid waste, essential roading services and crematorium and cemetery services.

All Council venues are now closed including Council Customer Services at 101 Guyton Street and all parks and facilities.

Freedom camping areas in Whanganui are closed and all freedom campers are requested to stay at registered camp grounds with suitable facilities for self-isolation.

All Whanganui District Council public toilets are also closed as these cannot be serviced and could present a public health risk.

The Council's Chief Executive, Mr Kym Fell says, "We are well-prepared for this situation and have put the necessary plans into action.

"We are focused on keeping essential services functioning under emergency conditions and supporting the Whanganui District Health Board in the national response to COVID-19."



Whanganui District Council Chief Executive, Kym Fell (left), and the Council's Emergency Manager, Timothy Crowe

For all information and updates on COVID-19 in New Zealand, please go to the Ministry of Health website: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus

Or the New Zealand Government site: www.covid19.govt.nz

For information on the local response to managing COVID-19, please visit the Whanganui District Health Board website: www.wdwb.org.nz

New Zealand COVID-19 Alert Levels www.covid19.govt.nz **Unite against COVID-19**

- These alert levels specify the public health and social measures to be taken.
- The measures may be updated on the basis of (i) new scientific knowledge about COVID-19 and (ii) information about the effectiveness of intervention measures in New Zealand and elsewhere.
- The alert levels may be applied at a town, city, territorial local authority, regional or national level.
- Different parts of the country may be at different alert levels. We can move up and down alert levels.
- In general, the alert levels are cumulative, e.g. Level 1 is a base-level response. Always prepare for the next level.
- At all levels, health services, emergency services, utilities and goods transport, and other essential services, operations and staff, are expected to remain up and running. Employers in those sectors must continue to meet their health and safety obligations.

LEVEL	RISK ASSESSMENT	RANGE OF MEASURES (can be applied locally or nationally)
Level 4 - Eliminate Likely that disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained and intensive transmission • Widespread outbreaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People instructed to stay at home • Educational facilities closed • Businesses closed except for essential services (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics) and lifeline utilities • Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities • Travel severely limited • Major reprioritisation of healthcare services
Level 3 - Restrict Heightened risk that disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community transmission occurring OR • Multiple clusters break out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel in areas with clusters or community transmission limited • Affected educational facilities closed • Mass gatherings cancelled • Public venues closed (e.g. libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, amusement parks) • Alternative ways of working required and some non-essential businesses should close • Non face-to-face primary care consultations • Non acute (elective) services and procedures in hospitals deferred and healthcare staff reprioritised
Level 2 - Reduce Disease is contained, but risks of community transmission growing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk of importing COVID-19 OR • Uptick in imported cases OR • Uptick in household transmission OR • Single or isolated cluster outbreak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry border measures maximised • Further restrictions on mass gatherings • Physical distancing on public transport (e.g. leave the seat next to you empty if you can) • Limit non-essential travel around New Zealand • Employers start alternative ways of working if possible (e.g. remote working, shift-based working, physical distancing within the workplace, staggering meal breaks, flexible leave arrangements) • Business continuity plans activated • High-risk people advised to remain at home (e.g. those over 70 or those with other existing medical conditions)
Level 1 - Prepare Disease is contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heightened risk of importing COVID-19 OR • Sporadic imported cases OR • Isolated household transmission associated with imported cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border entry measures to minimise risk of importing COVID-19 cases applied • Contact tracing • Stringent self-isolation and quarantine • Intensive testing for COVID-19 • Physical distancing encouraged • Mass gatherings over 500 cancelled • Stay home if you're sick, report flu-like symptoms • Wash and dry hands, cough into elbow, don't touch your face