

## Document 1

[Home](#) / Tertiary And International Covid-19 Bulletin

# **TERTIARY AND INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN**

**4 MARCH 2022**

04 March 2022

## **IN THIS BULLETIN ISSUE**

[COVID-19 Protection Framework settings](#)

[Guidance on managing household contacts within tertiary accommodation](#)

[Household contacts](#)

[Close contacts](#)

[Tertiary toolkit and accommodation guidance](#)

[Fully vaccinated travellers entering New Zealand will no longer be required to self-isolate](#)

[International education border exception](#)

[Be prepared for COVID-19](#)

[Travelling and COVID-19](#)

[Email address for questions](#)

[Stay up to date](#)

## **COVID-19 Protection Framework settings**

All of New Zealand is at Red (Phase 3).

# Guidance on managing household contacts within tertiary accommodation

At Phase 3 of the Omicron response, only confirmed COVID-19 cases and household contacts are required to self-isolate.

Although other close contacts are not required to self-isolate, they remain at high risk of developing COVID-19 and should be vigilant for symptoms. They must self-isolate and get tested if symptoms develop.

Anyone in tertiary accommodation who is symptomatic (even if only very mild symptoms) should be encouraged to get tested for COVID-19.

We have worked with the Ministry of Health to provide further clarification below around how household contacts are defined within tertiary accommodation and how cases and contacts should be managed at Phase 3 of the Omicron Response.

## Household contacts

Residents and live-in staff are likely to be considered household contacts (and therefore are required to follow the testing and isolation advice for household contacts) if they:

- share a bedroom with a case, or
- are in house or flat-style self-contained tertiary accommodation with a case where the case uses a kitchen, bathroom, or laundry, and
- the contact has spent at least one night or day (more than eight hours) in that residence while the case was infectious.

Residents and live-in staff are generally not likely to be considered household contacts if they are living in single rooms in group accommodation including:

- halls of residences
- residential colleges
- hostels.

It is expected that most people in a hostel or hall will not be considered household contacts – for example, occasionally sharing bathroom or kitchen or laundry facilities are low-risk activities (unless the

person had very prolonged contact with the case).

There is a helpful tool on the Unite Against COVID-19 website which calculates a person's isolation period.

[If you have COVID-19 – Unite against COVID-19](#)

You might also find the below graphic useful.

Image with table on how to work out your 10 days of self-isolation

## Close contacts

Cases are advised to inform their close contacts that they are a close contact.

These include people they had contact with indoors during their infectious period when they were not wearing a mask, for example eating and drinking together or prolonged contact when the case was not wearing a mask. In a hostel situation, this may include other residents or staff in the hostel.

Advice for those classified as a close contact:

- close contacts are not required to isolate but are at a higher level of risk. All close contacts should be advised to be careful and vigilant for symptoms and isolate and test if symptoms develop.
- close contacts may choose to stay away from others and/or consider what settings they go into during the 10 days following exposure. That is, they may choose not to visit people more vulnerable to COVID-19 or go to a crowded location.
- If a close contact wishes to self-isolate (even though not required to), we expect that tertiary and accommodation providers will support them to do this.

For reference, you are considered a close contact if you have:

- been close to someone (within 1.5 metres) who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes and they were not wearing a mask or were not wearing it properly
- had direct contact with respiratory secretions or saliva from the person with COVID-19 (for example, kissing, shared a cigarette, vape or drink bottle, or if the person coughed or sneezed directly on you)
- spent time in an indoor space for more than one hour with the person with COVID-19 and at least one of the following applies:
  - the person with COVID-19 was singing, shouting, smoking, vaping, exercising, or dancing

- the person with COVID-19 was not wearing a mask or wasn't wearing it properly
- the indoor space was poorly ventilated (that is, there were no windows or doors open)
- the indoor space was smaller than 100m<sup>2</sup> (about three double garages).

The above only applies if you have been in contact with a COVID-19 case during their infectious period, which is two days before symptom onset or the date they were tested (if they have no symptoms).

## **Tertiary toolkit and accommodation guidance**

We are in the process of updating the Ministry of Health's tertiary toolkit and accommodation guidance on our website to reflect recent changes.

It is important that residents and staff are consistently reminded of ways to lower transmission, these include:

- encourage eating and drinking outside where possible
- have good ventilation in shared spaces
- most importantly, don't go out if you are sick.

## **Fully vaccinated travellers entering New Zealand will no longer be required to self-isolate**

The Government has updated its five-step plan to re-open New Zealand borders.

Step 1: From 11:59pm on Wednesday 2 March 2022, as the New Zealand border reopens in steps, fully vaccinated New Zealand citizens and residents entering New Zealand from Australia no longer need to self-isolate.

The Government has also brought forward Step 2 so that from 11.59pm tonight Friday 4 March, New Zealanders and other eligible travellers coming from anywhere in the world are also able to enter without a requirement to self-isolate.

Travellers must meet the following health requirements.

- Travellers must provide a negative COVID-19 pre-departure test.
- They must meet vaccination requirements.
- They must do do rapid antigen tests (RATs) on Day 0/1 and Day 5/6 and declare their results.

- All positive RATs must be registered and followed up with a PCR test.

Further information about vaccination requirements for travel to New Zealand can be found on the Unite against COVID-19 website.

[Vaccination requirements for travel to New Zealand – Unite against COVID-19](#)

Further information

[When New Zealand's borders open – Unite against COVID-19](#)

[Self-isolation requirements removed, Step 2 brought forward – Unite against COVID-19](#)

## International education border exception

The New Zealand Government has recently announced that from 11:59 pm, Tuesday 12 April 2022, up to 5,000 international students nominated under a fourth border exception (cohort 4) can begin applying for their border exception and student visa.

We hope that most students will be in New Zealand in time for a July study start. At this stage, sub sectors have been advised of their allocation of places.

Education agencies have shared the Draft Implementation Framework for consultation with peak body representatives for universities, Te Pūkenga, PTEs, ELS and schools.

If you are an education provider who is not aligned to a peak body, you can request a copy from: [c4@enz.govt.nz](mailto:c4@enz.govt.nz).

We anticipate a finalised Implementation Framework to be shared with the sector from 14 March 2022.

Student visa processing more broadly resumes under Step 5, from October 2022.

You can read more about the immigration changes at each step on Immigration NZ's website.

[Reopening the New Zealand border – Immigration NZ](#)

## Be prepared for COVID-19

Whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, everyone should prepare for what they need to do if they get COVID-19.

The Unite against COVID-19 website has resources to help you.

[Be prepared for COVID-19 – Unite against COVID-19](#)

## Travelling and COVID-19

While vaccination is highly effective, it is still possible to get COVID-19.

You may get it while you are away from home, even if you are following the rules. You should prepare for what you may need to do if this happens.

[Travel at Red – Unite against COVID-19](#)

## Email address for questions

All tertiary and international COVID-19 related queries can be emailed to us through our central mailbox [COVID19.TertiaryandInternational@education.govt.nz](mailto:COVID19.TertiaryandInternational@education.govt.nz).

## Stay up to date

[Guidance for tertiary education providers – Ministry of Education](#)

[Case and contact management: Tertiary education – Ministry of Education](#)

[Locations of interest – Ministry of Health](#)

[Cross-government information about COVID-19 – NZ Government](#)

[Resources in te reo Māori – Unite against COVID-19](#)

[Information to support Pacific communities – Ministry for Pacific Peoples Facebook](#)

[Resources in sign language and easy read formats – Unite against COVID-19](#)

[Updates on travel restrictions and visa information – Immigration NZ](#)

[Advice for international students – NauMai NZ](#)

## Document 2

[Home](#) / Tertiary And International Covid-19 Bulletin

# **TERTIARY AND INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN**

**11 MARCH 2022**

11 March 2022

## **IN THIS BULLETIN ISSUE**

[COVID-19 Protection Framework settings](#)

[Guidance for managing self-isolation in student accommodation](#)

[Changes to isolation periods](#)

[Testing requirements for household contacts](#)

[Recovered cases are not considered a household contact for 90 days](#)

[General advice](#)

[Changes to SPOC hours of service](#)

[Clarification: Vaccination requirements for secondary-tertiary and workplace-based learning arrangements](#)

[Be prepared for COVID-19](#)

[Travelling and COVID-19](#)

[Email address for questions](#)

[Stay up to date](#)

## **COVID-19 Protection Framework settings**

All of New Zealand is at Red (Phase 3).

# Guidance for managing self-isolation in student accommodation

Following our 4 March bulletin on managing cases and household contacts within student accommodation at Phase 3, the Ministry of Health's detailed accommodation guidance is now available on our website.

This includes further clarification on the definition of household contacts within tertiary accommodation and how cases and contacts should be managed at Phase 3.

You can access this guidance on our website.

[Resources for tertiary education providers – Ministry of Education](#)

## Changes to isolation periods

Effective from tonight, Friday 11.59pm 11 March 2022, the isolation and quarantine requirements for cases and their household contacts has been reduced from 10 days to seven days.

This reduction in the isolation period will ensure we maintain a balance between controlling the outbreak effectively and minimising the impacts of our response measures.

From midnight tonight, cases are required to isolate for seven days.

A case's Day 0 is from symptom onset or the day the test was taken, whichever came first. Cases must isolate for seven full days and are free to return to normal activities on what is effectively Day 8. If a case still has symptoms after seven days, they are advised to stay home until 24 hours after symptoms resolve.

Household contacts isolate for the same seven days as the case. Household contacts can go back to their normal activities on the same day as the first case in their household, provided all their (the household contact's) test results have been negative. Household contacts should continue to self-monitor for symptoms and if symptoms develop, they should get tested.

Cases and household contacts can use the 'When does my isolation start/end' tool on the Unite against COVID-19 website to work out when they can leave isolation.

[If you have COVID-19 – Unite against COVID-19.](#)

Cases and household contacts who are currently isolating can return to normal activities on Day 8 if that falls on or after 12 March 2022.

In Phase 3, cases and household contacts do not require an official release notification to leave isolation.

Further information can be found on the Unite against COVID-19 website.

[How to self-isolate – Unite against COVID-19](#)

## Testing requirements for household contacts

Household contacts are required to take a self-administered rapid antigen test (RAT) on Day 3 and Day 7 of their isolation period.

[How to take a rapid antigen test – Ministry of Health NZ](#)

If symptoms develop at any time during isolation, the usual advice remains in place to undertake an additional RAT.

- If the test is negative, and symptoms persist or worsen, test again 48 hours after.
- If symptoms resolve, there is no need for a further test, until the required Day 7 RAT. If this is negative, they can return to daily life on Day 8.

If a household contact has new symptoms on the day of release, the general public health advice applies.

- They should undertake an additional RAT and stay at home while unwell.
  - If that test is negative, and symptoms persist or worsen, test again after 48 hours.
  - If symptoms resolve, there is no need for a further test.
  - If the test is positive, they must isolate as a case for seven days.

## Recovered cases are not considered a household contact for 90 days

Evidence also shows that the risk of re-infection within the first three months after someone has had Omicron is low.

For this reason, recovered cases will no longer need to isolate again if they become a household contact within 90 days of having the virus. This has been extended from 28 days.

However, if a recovered case develops new symptoms at any stage after their release from isolation, they should seek a further RAT test, and if they test positive they must isolate.

## General advice

The Ministry of Health advises that anyone who has had COVID-19 or is a 'contact' of someone who has COVID-19 avoid attending high-risk settings until ten days have passed since they were infected or exposed to the virus. For example, aged-care facilities, correctional facilities or hospitals (unless they are requiring care).

The general public health advice remains in place to undertake a RAT if symptomatic. If the RAT is negative, and symptoms persist/worsen, then test again 48 hours after the negative test. If symptoms resolve, there is no need for a further test.

## Changes to SPOC hours of service

As close contact identification is not required at Phase 3 of the Omicron response, the volume of enquiries from the tertiary sector to NZQA and TEC single points of contact (SPOCs) has decreased significantly over recent weeks.

Given this, we are updating the SPOCs' availability. From today, SPOCs can be reached between 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Enquiries should be made via email rather than over the phone. However, for urgent enquiries that may come up over the weekend, SPOCs can still be reached on the below phone numbers.

For private training establishments, email NZQA: [SPOC@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:SPOC@nzqa.govt.nz)

For tertiary education institutions, email TEC: [SPOC@tec.govt.nz](mailto:SPOC@tec.govt.nz)

For urgent (or weekend) enquiries, please call the following number as relevant.

NZQA: 04 463 4393

TEC: 0800 222 410

## Clarification: Vaccination requirements for secondary-tertiary and workplace-based learning arrangements

In general, tertiary education providers cannot deny a secondary school student access to their premises to undertake their learning, based on vaccination status.

However, we have had a number of questions about how this applies to work-based learning vaccination requirements.

The COVID-19 Protection Framework Order has been amended to clarify vaccination requirements for secondary-tertiary and workplace-based learning arrangements, with the amendment coming into force at 11.59 pm on Saturday 12 March 2022.

This amendment clarifies that where a secondary school student undertakes workplace-based learning as part of their course on site at the tertiary education provider, any workforce vaccination requirements (hairdressing, hospitality, and so on) take precedence. In these instances, the secondary school student must be vaccinated to participate in the onsite programme or the part of that programme that is work-based.

This is consistent with current public health advice for workplaces where vaccination is mandated. This vaccination requirement applies where secondary-tertiary programme courses are delivered on site at the tertiary education provider in a workplace covered by the Vaccinations Order (for example, health and ECE centres) or the CPF Order (for example, hospitality, gyms, hairdressers/salons and other close-proximity businesses).

We encourage providers to make alternative learning options available to support unvaccinated students where possible.

We are updating CPF guidance for secondary-tertiary and workplace-based learning arrangements on the Ministry of Education's Youth Guarantee website.

In the meantime, you can find information about the CPF more generally on our website.

[Advice for schools and kura – Ministry of Education](#)

[Advice for tertiary providers – Ministry of Education](#)

## **Be prepared for COVID-19**

Whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, everyone should prepare for what they need to do if they get COVID-19.

The Unite against COVID-19 website has resources to help you

[Be prepared for COVID-19 – Unite against COVID-19](#)

## **Travelling and COVID-19**

While vaccination is highly effective, it is still possible to get COVID-19.

You may get it while you are away from home, even if you are following the rules. You should prepare for what you may need to do if this happens.

[If you get COVID-19 while travelling – Unite against COVID-19](#)

## Email address for questions

All tertiary and international COVID-19 related queries can be emailed to us through our central mailbox [COVID19.TertiaryandInternational@education.govt.nz](mailto:COVID19.TertiaryandInternational@education.govt.nz).

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[Guidance for tertiary education providers – Ministry of Education](#)

[Case and contact management: Tertiary education – Ministry of Education](#)

[Locations of interest – Ministry of Health](#)

[Cross-government information about COVID-19 – New Zealand Government](#)

[Travel at Red – Unite against COVID-19](#)

[Resources in te reo Māori – Unite against COVID-19](#)

[Information to support Pacific communities – Ministry for Pacific Peoples Facebook](#)

[Resources in sign language and easy read formats – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

[Updates on travel restrictions and visa information – Immigration NZ](#)

[Advice for international students – NauMai NZ](#)

## Document 3

[Home](#) / Tertiary And International Covid-19 Bulletin

# TERTIARY AND INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN

24 MARCH 2022

24 March 2022

## IN THIS BULLETIN ISSUE

[COVID-19 Protection Framework settings](#)

[Changes to vaccination mandates and My Vaccine Passes](#)

[Other changes to COVID-19 Protection Framework settings](#)

[QR code requirements](#)

[Capacity limits](#)

[Face mask requirements](#)

[The Ministry of Health has provided further clarity on when contacts should isolate](#)

[Update on booster shots for people under 18](#)

[Be prepared for COVID-19](#)

[Travelling and COVID-19](#)

[Email address for questions](#)

[Stay up to date](#)

## COVID-19 Protection Framework settings

All of New Zealand is at Red (Phase 3).

Our bulletins set out key information on changes to New Zealand's COVID-19 response and what this means for the tertiary sector.

We are working to update our more detailed guidance. In the meantime, please rely on what is set out in this bulletin.

If you need any clarification, please contact [COVID19.TertiaryandInternational@education.govt.nz](mailto:COVID19.TertiaryandInternational@education.govt.nz).

## Changes to vaccination mandates and My Vaccine Passes

Effective from 11:59pm Monday 4 April 2022, My Vaccine Pass (MVP) requirements will be removed from the COVID-19 Protection Framework.

With the removal of MVPs, the corresponding worker vaccination requirements will also go (for example, for workers at food and drink, close-proximity businesses or gyms).

For tertiary education, this means that there is no longer a Government vaccination requirement for staff, students or visitors to go on site tertiary education premises at Red. Vaccine mandates for the early learning, primary and secondary education workforces will also be removed.

We are now overall a highly vaccinated country. Vaccine requirements like MVPs and mandates played an important role in getting us there. They have done the job they were put in place for. While cases remain high for now, removing these requirements reflects that New Zealand is moving into a post-peak phase.

The removal of MVPs means that tertiary providers need to look at whether their own vaccination policies are still appropriate, based on a workplace health and safety risk assessment.

Providers can continue their own vaccine policies or restrictions, but they need to ensure these are consistent with an updated workplace health and safety risk assessment and their normal responsibilities. They need to be able to justify any continuance, with updated public health guidance and their normal responsibilities.

These responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- their human rights obligations
- work health and safety requirements
- expectations for learner wellbeing and safety systems
- contractual relationships with students
- student enrolment entitlements
- relevant pastoral care codes

- equity considerations

The MVP infrastructure will remain should businesses or tertiary providers choose to use it. Places where MVP use is currently prohibited (for example health and disability services and pharmacies) will have no changes to their settings.

It is important that you work with your staff, students and their representatives when identifying health and safety risks and how these will be managed. Your community is likely to want to understand if vaccinations are required and, if so, why this is the case.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and WorkSafe are updating their guidance, including the vaccination assessment tool, to reflect the removal of government mandates and the updated public health guidance on vaccinations.

This will be available on their websites over the next week.

Current guidance can be found at:

[How to decide what work requires a vaccinated employee – WorkSafe](#)

[Vaccines and the workplace – Employment NZ](#)

[Vaccination assessment tool – Business NZ](#)

## **Other changes to COVID-19 Protection Framework settings**

The Government has announced other framework changes now that we are moving into the post-peak phase of Omicron.

These are intended to support a general shift towards greater self-management, particularly at the Orange and Green settings of the framework.

Key changes, and their implications for tertiary, as well as confirmation of existing key settings, are set out below.

The Government also signalled that it would review shifting all (or parts) of the country to Orange on Monday 4 April. We will update you on this as soon as we can.

### **QR code requirements**

Across all traffic light settings, workplaces (including tertiary providers) are no longer required to enable people to record their visit (for example, through displaying COVID Tracer QR codes).

This change will take effect from 11:59pm Friday 25 March.

However, providers should retain capability to swiftly reinstall COVID Tracer QR codes in case these are required again in future. There is no longer a requirement to offer alternative forms of recordkeeping (for example paper-based).

## Capacity limits

From 11:59pm Friday 25 March, at Red, tertiary providers must continue to base capacity limits on the one-metre physical distancing rule, though there is no broad upper limit (this is unchanged).

For indoor events, gatherings, food and drink businesses and gyms (including those onsite at a tertiary facility) that are using MVPs, the current capacity limit will increase to a maximum of 200 people, based on one-metre physical distancing.

From 11:59pm Monday 4 April, when MVPs are removed from the Framework, capacity limits will no longer depend on vaccination status.

When we move to Orange, there will be no capacity limits. However, allocated seating or one-metre physical distancing is strongly encouraged, particularly for indoor events of 500 or more people.

When we move to Green, there will be no capacity limits.

Across all traffic light settings, there will be no capacity limits for outdoor gatherings.

## Face mask requirements

There are no changes to the current face mask requirements for tertiary education.

At Red, face masks must continue to be used indoors at tertiary education premises open to the public and during formal teaching and learning activities (unless there is an exemption).

At Orange and Green, the use of face masks in tertiary settings is encouraged but not required.

## The Ministry of Health has provided further clarity on when contacts should isolate

For households where someone has COVID-19, the Ministry of Health recommends you apply the following guidance:

- If someone becomes a confirmed COVID-19 case, then that case and all other people in their household must isolate for seven days.
- If someone else in the household tests positive for COVID-19 during those seven days:
  - the isolation period for that person only re-sets. So that person must isolate for an additional seven days from the day they test positive, or symptoms begin.
  - other household contacts who do not test positive are still able to leave isolation after the original case has completed their seven days isolation
- For the next 10 days after a household completes seven days isolation, evidence shows that due to their exposure to COVID-19 they are less likely to catch or transmit the virus.
  - This means if someone else in the household tests positive within those 10 days, the whole household will not have to re-isolate, only the positive case.
  - If someone else in the household tests positive and it has been more than 10 days since the household completed isolation, household contacts should re-isolate along with the new case for seven days.
- However, any person who has had COVID-19 within the last 90 days/three months will not need to isolate as a household contact unless they become symptomatic and test positive again. This is because reinfection rates for people who have had COVID-19 are low for the three months after they have the virus.

Day 0 for isolation is the day symptoms began or the day the positive test was taken (whichever came first). You should then count your seven days from there.

## **Update on booster shots for people under 18**

Booster COVID-19 vaccines are not yet approved by Medsafe for people under 18 years of age and are not currently part of our COVID-19 national vaccination programme.

Pfizer has applied to Medsafe to reduce the age threshold for boosters for the Pfizer vaccine, which is the preferred booster vaccine for use in New Zealand. A decision is expected soon. We will tell you more about this when we can.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Health advises that tertiary students under the age of 18 might be able to get a prescription for a COVID-19 booster from their GP. As with other medicines, vaccines can be used outside of Medsafe approval (i.e. 'off label') if they are prescribed by an authorised prescriber.

It is recommended that students under 18 discuss their situation with their GP or medical specialist. Appointments to discuss COVID-19 vaccine options, and all COVID-19 vaccines (including boosters) are free, including for those who are under 18.

## Be prepared for COVID-19

Whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, everyone should prepare for what they need to do if they get COVID-19.

The Unite against COVID-19 website has resources to help you.

[Be prepared for COVID-19 – Unite against COVID-19](#)

## Travelling and COVID-19

While vaccination is highly effective, it is still possible to get COVID-19.

You may get it while you are away from home, even if you are following the rules. You should prepare for what you may need to do if this happens.

[If you get COVID-19 while travelling – Unite against COVID-19](#)

## Email address for questions

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[Guidance for tertiary education providers – Ministry of Education](#)

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[Cross-government information about COVID-19 – NZ Government](#)

[Travel at Red – Unite against COVID-19](#)

[Resources in te reo Māori – Unite against COVID-19](#)

[Information to support Pacific communities – Ministry for Pacific Peoples Facebook](#)

[Resources in sign language and easy read formats – Unite against COVID-19](#)

[Updates on travel restrictions and visa information – Immigration NZ](#)

[Advice for international students – NauMai NZ](#)

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## Document 4

[Home](#) / Tertiary And International Covid-19 Bulletin

# TERTIARY AND INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 BULLETIN

**31 MARCH 2022**

31 March 2022

## IN THIS BULLETIN ISSUE

[COVID-19 Protection Framework settings](#)

[Updated vaccination guidance for workplaces](#)

[Requiring My Vaccine Passes for students and visitors](#)

[Update on the border exception for international students](#)

[Be prepared for COVID-19](#)

[Travelling and COVID-19](#)

[Email address for queries](#)

[Stay up to date](#)

## COVID-19 Protection Framework settings

All of New Zealand is at Red (Phase 3).

Our bulletins set out key information on changes to New Zealand's COVID-19 response and what this means for the tertiary sector.

We are working to update our more detailed guidance. In the meantime, please rely on what is set out in this bulletin.

If you need any clarification, please contact [COVID19.TertiaryandInternational@education.govt.nz](mailto:COVID19.TertiaryandInternational@education.govt.nz).

## Updated vaccination guidance for workplaces

As outlined in our 24 March bulletin, effective from 11:59pm Monday 4 April there will no longer be a government vaccination requirement for staff, students or visitors to go on site at a tertiary education premises at Red.

Employers (including tertiary providers) may still be able to maintain vaccination requirements where they continue to be supported by an updated workplace health and safety risk assessment but the reason will need to be specific to their role and set of circumstances.

Employment New Zealand (part of MBIE) and WorkSafe have updated their advice to support workplaces to manage COVID-19, including assessing whether employer vaccination requirements are necessary.

Key messages for employers (including tertiary providers) are as follows.

- New Zealand now has high vaccination rates and reduced risk of reinfection for those who have recently recovered from COVID-19.
- Employer vaccination requirements should be used carefully, based on public health advice and in line with providers' normal responsibilities. They are not a suitable first response for managing COVID-19 in most workplaces.
- Employers are encouraged to complete a risk assessment or review their existing risk assessment as New Zealand progresses through the current COVID-19 outbreak.
- The public health justification for requiring vaccination is when the risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19 at work is higher than it is in the community. This is the basis on which some Government vaccination mandates have been retained. Employers may also consider other risk factors that are relevant and justifiable in respect of their workplace(s).
- Outside of those sectors which continue to be covered by government vaccine mandates (such as Health), WorkSafe considers that few workplaces will be able to justify an employer vaccination requirement for health and safety or public health reasons. For those who can, this would likely be only for specific roles.
- In deciding what controls to implement, employers will need to consider what is reasonably practicable. Employers should first consider the controls that are least intrusive to employees before requiring vaccinations.
- However, as with seasonal flu and other vaccinations, employers can and should encourage workers to get their COVID-19 vaccinations or boosters.

- Employers are expected to follow public health guidance when carrying out a risk assessment, to engage with workers and their representatives and regularly review the risk assessment as the situation changes. Where an employer can demonstrate it has done this, it is unlikely WorkSafe will take enforcement action, even if it disagrees with the decisions an employer has made in its risk assessment. WorkSafe will instead take an educative approach.

This updated guidance can be found on WorkSafe and Employment NZ websites.

[Employer vaccination requirements and other measures – WorkSafe](#)

[Vaccines and the workplace – Employment NZ](#)

Given changes to public health advice, the vaccination assessment tool is currently being reviewed.

Further information on the tool can be found here:

[Vaccination assessment tool —Business NZ](#)

## **Requiring My Vaccine Passes for students and visitors**

From 11.59pm Monday 4 April, the use of My Vaccine Passes (MVP) will no longer be required by the Government.

Some businesses, events or venues may choose to continue to require MVPs as a condition of entry to their premises. The MVP infrastructure will therefore be maintained.

If tertiary providers had developed their own restrictions (beyond those of government) based on a health and safety risk assessment which required students or visitors to hold a MVP, they are encouraged to review those conditions to reflect updated public health advice. They would need to be able to justify any continuation of MVPs with their normal responsibilities (for example contractual relationships with students and the tertiary and international Code of Practice).

It is important that providers work with their staff, students and representative organisations when identifying health and safety risks and how these will be managed. The tertiary community is likely to want to understand if holding a MVP is required as a condition of entry and, if so, why this is the case.

Further information can be found on the Business NZ website.

[Requiring My Vaccine Passes for entry – Business NZ](#)

# Update on the border exception for international students

Immigration NZ will begin accepting student nominations from providers on 13 April 2022.

The allocations of the 1,450 university places for border exceptions for international students have been agreed.

Te Pūkenga is completing an internal process to allocate its 700 places. Education agencies have collaborated to assess applications and allocate places to individual providers in the English-language schools (ELS), private training establishments (PTE) and school sub-sectors.

All providers who met the criteria outlined in the Implementation Framework received an allocation of places.

Further information on the border class exception for 5,000 international students can be found on our website.

[Border class exception for 5,000 international students – Ministry of Education](#)

## Be prepared for COVID-19

Whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, everyone should prepare for what they need to do if they get COVID-19.

The Unite against COVID-19 website has resources to help you.

[Be prepared for COVID-19 – Unite against COVID-19](#)

## Travelling and COVID-19

While vaccination is highly effective, it is still possible to get COVID-19.

You may get it while you are away from home, even if you are following the rules. You should prepare for what you may need to do if this happens.

[If you get COVID-19 while travelling – Unite against COVID-19](#)

## Email address for queries

All tertiary and international COVID-19 related queries can be emailed to us through our central mailbox [COVID19.TertiaryandInternational@education.govt.nz](mailto:COVID19.TertiaryandInternational@education.govt.nz).

## Stay up to date

[Guidance for tertiary education providers – Ministry of Education](#)

[Case and contact management: Tertiary education – Ministry of Education](#)

[Locations of interest – Ministry of Health](#)

[Cross-government information about COVID-19 – NZ Government](#)

[Travel at Red – Unite against COVID-19](#)

[Resources in te reo Māori – Unite against COVID-19](#)

[Information to support Pacific communities – Ministry for Pacific Peoples Facebook](#)

[Resources in sign language and easy read formats – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

[Updates on travel restrictions and visa information – Immigration NZ](#)

[Advice for international students – NauMai NZ](#)