



Bulletin – Tertiary Providers

9th June, 2020

COVID-19 Update

Now we are at Alert Level 1, the main national control measures are border restrictions and managed isolation or quarantine for people entering the country. While we are at Alert Level 1, it will be critical that we all remain vigilant. There is still a global pandemic, which is likely to continue for some time, and we therefore need to be in a state of readiness to respond quickly should a new case of COVID-19 be detected within the community. This means that individuals should be continuing good hygiene practices, keeping track of where they go and who they meet.

For more information on the 10 Golden Rules for everyone at Alert Level 1, visit [COVID-19.govt.nz website](https://www.covid-19.govt.nz). [Information about the four level alert system is here.](#)

At Alert Level 1, the general guidelines for TEOs are:

- all on-site activities at tertiary education facilities can resume as normal, including classes, lectures, labs, workshops, tutorials, noho, meetings, etc.
- all staff and students may return to on-campus activities.
- TEOs are not required to maintain records to enable contact tracing, but may continue to collect this information as long as they protect people's privacy and safety.
- TEOs are encouraged to enable individuals (i.e. staff, students, and visitors) to keep track of where they have been by displaying QR codes so people can use the COVID Tracer app.
- TEOs are not required to maintain physical distancing.
- remote learning and teaching systems should be maintained in case of a move to a higher alert level.
- TEOs should be ready to move up alert levels at short notice (i.e. be ready to implement the required public health control measures of each level).



- If a staff or student is concerned about their wellbeing, or has underlying health conditions, they should work with their GP or other health professional to understand how best to stay healthy.

Further detail on contact tracing

Under Alert Level 1, the ability to undertake rapid contact tracing will be critical to enable us to quickly get on top of and suppress any future outbreak of COVID-19.

To support this, people are encouraged to keep track of where they have been and who they have had contact with to enable rapid contact tracing in the event they have contact with an active case, for example, by using the COVID Tracer app.

While TEOs would not be required under Alert Level 1 to maintain a contact tracing register themselves (as they are at Alert Level 2-4), they are encouraged to enable individuals (i.e. staff, students, and visitors) to keep track of where they have been by displaying QR codes so people can use the COVID Tracer app.

TEOs would not be required to enforce that people scan the QR code before entering a building, but should encourage this.

TEOs may (if they wish) continue to operate contact tracing registers on their facilities. However, this is not required, and should only be done so as long as the TEO is able to protect peoples' privacy and safety.

Interim Code of Practice

New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) has released the Implementation Guidance for the Education (Pastoral Care of Domestic Tertiary Students) Interim Code of Practice 2019 (guidance).

This is intended to help tertiary education organisations (TEOs) put the Interim Code into practice and achieve its outcomes. It is an optional tool to assist providers in understanding the requirements of the Interim Code. Compliance with the Interim Code is mandatory, use of the guidance material is not.

The guidance:

- introduces the Interim Code
- provides the principles for implementing the Interim Code
- suggests key factors to keep in mind when implementing the Interim Code
- describes NZQA's role as the Code administrator
- provides information on the development of an ongoing code,
- provides detailed guidance for understanding and applying each outcome (and the processes within).

This guidance will be updated as required to remain current and fit for purpose.

Further information can be found on the NZQA website – www.nzqa.govt.nz/interim-code-guidance

If you have any further questions, please contact code.enquiries@nzqa.govt.nz.

Re-instating Fees Free entitlements for learners impacted by COVID-19

Many learners have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 lockdown situation either by not being able to participate fully in their studies or training, or due to illness or financial hardship. This has resulted in some learners withdrawing from their study or training or failing courses. Tertiary Education Organisations may inform learners who used their Fees Free entitlement to study or train that this will not be counted as part of their Fees Free consumption, if they have not successfully completed it due to the impacts of COVID-19.

The TEC has been given the discretion to 'write-off' some or all of learners' 2020 Fees Free consumption if they are an eligible learner and:

- they withdrew from study or training due to the impact of COVID-19; or
- their study or training was adversely affected due to the impact of COVID-19

The TEC is working on a process that will reinstate the entitlements of learners who withdrew from 23 March to 30 June, without learners needing to apply. This process is not yet in place. Learners shouldn't worry if their entitlement has not yet been reinstated, it will be soon.

For withdrawals outside of the period from 23 March to 30 June, or where learners didn't withdraw, but their studies were adversely affected, there will be an application process for reinstatement of your entitlement. The TEC will make this information available soon.

Things change quickly so stay up to date by following the links below:

For health advice, please refer to the Ministry of Health's website.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

For Cross-agency information about COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), including health advice and travel restrictions visit the All-of-Government website <https://www.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/>

To keep updated on travel restrictions and visa information visit

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/coronavirus-update-inz-response>

For additional advice for tertiary providers/whare wananga visit the Ministry of Education website

<http://www.education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>