

Implications of moving out of Level 4

17/4/18

An announcement on timing for New Zealand's to move from Alert Level 4 to Alert Level 3 is due on Monday April 20, 2020. It may be that we move to Level 3 on the following Thursday, April 23.

On April 16, 2020, the Prime Minister provided new guidance on what moving to Level 3 will mean. The details of that guidance can be found at:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/tables/COVID-19-alert-Levels-detailed.pdf>

Under Level 3 the focus will shift from essential operations only to safe operations only.

In most cases, the protocols you have in place for Level 4, will allow for safe operations under Level 3.

Moving down from Level 4 to Levels 3, 2, and 1, will require a continued emphasis on **contact tracing**.

Your protocols should already allow for contact tracing within your operations as you will be documenting all staff and other essential personnel that enter your facility or come on board your vessels.

Under Level 3 you will not be able to operate a customer facing shop, but you will be able to open for delivery and contactless pre-ordered pick up – customers cannot enter stores.

The Prime Minister has indicated that moving out of Level 4 may occur locally, at a regional scale, or nationally. The current regional approach to listing cases on the MOH website may indicate that regional restrictions will be used.

However, at Level 3 and Level 2 workplaces will still be required to maintain some level of physical distancing (minimum of 1m). At Level 1, physical distancing is still encouraged but not required.

Aquaculture New Zealand and Seafood New Zealand are working together to develop a transition plan with protocols for each Level, which enable aquaculture operations to manage their transition, keep their workers safe and maintain business viability through the transition between COVID-19 response Levels.

In the meantime, we can glean some guidance from the latest information on measures at each Level and how they may be relevant to aquaculture operations. For the full official list see: <https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/covid-19-alert-system/>

Level 3 measures

- *People instructed to stay home in their bubble other than for essential personal movement – including to go to work, school if they have to, or for local recreation.*
- *People must work from home unless that is not possible.*
- *Physical distancing of two metres outside home (including on public transport), or one metre in controlled environments like workplaces and schools*
- *Bubbles must stay within their immediate household bubble, but can expand this to reconnect with close family / whanau, or bring in caregivers, or support isolated people. This extended bubble should remain exclusive.*
- *People at high risk of severe illness (older people and those with existing medical conditions) are encouraged to stay at home where possible and take additional precautions when leaving home. They may choose to work.*
- *Businesses can open premises, but staff cannot physically interact with customers*
- *Inter-regional travel is highly limited (e.g. for essential workers, with limited exemptions for others)*
- *Schools (years 1 to 10) and Early Childhood Education centres can safely open but will have limited capacity. Children should learn at home if possible.*
- *Public venues closed (eg libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, markets, playgrounds, boat ramps)*
- *Gatherings of up to 10 people are allowed but only for wedding services, funerals and tangihanga. Physical distancing and public health measures must be maintained.*
- *Healthcare services use virtual, non-contact consultations where possible.*
- *Low risk local recreation activities are allowed*

For your operations Alert Level 3 will still require:

- *documenting the arrival and departure of all staff and other personnel on site / onboard for contact tracing*
- *physical distancing within the workplace (1m or greater). If unable to maintain 1m distancing – alternative ways of working or PPE should be provided*
- *good hygiene measures like hand washing with soap and water, physical distancing, sneeze and cough etiquette, and wiping down surfaces is the best defence against COVID-19*
- *high-risk staff are encouraged to remain at home (eg those over 70 or those with other existing medical conditions) but they can choose to work.*

Government guidance for workers and businesses at Level 3

Most, but not all businesses can start to open under Alert Level 3 if they are operating safely. “Operating safely” means:

Complying with Alert Level 3 settings detailed in the table at

<https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/tables/COVID-19-alert-levels-detailed.pdf>,

and

- Meeting appropriate public health requirements for their workplace, including for workers (e.g. putting up physical barriers), and
- Fulfilling all other health and safety obligations

NB: Unless they are working within 1m of other staff, most workers will not require PPE to stay safe at work. Incorrectly used PPE can create more risk. Good hygiene measures like hand washing with soap and water, physical distancing, sneeze and cough etiquette, and wiping down surfaces is the best defence against COVID-19.

People are required to work from home unless that is not possible.

Workplaces can only open if:

- Workers cannot work from home, and
- Workplaces are operating safely, and
- Customers are not allowed on premises, and
- Businesses can trade without physical contact with customers (e.g. through phone/online orders, delivery, pick-up and drive-through).

Businesses cannot offer services that involve close personal contact, unless it is an essential service, emergency or critical situation.

Supermarkets, dairies and petrol stations can have customers on premises.

If businesses cannot operate safely, workers must not go to work and premises should remain closed.

Level 2 measures

- *Most businesses open, and business premises can be open for staff and customers with appropriate measures in place. Alternative ways of working encouraged (e.g. remote working, shift-based working, physical distancing, staggering meal breaks, flexible leave).*
- *No restrictions on freight. All freight will be able to be distributed and received*
- *Physical distancing of one metre outside home (including on public transport).*
- *Gatherings of up to 100 people indoors and 500 outdoors allowed while maintaining physical distancing and contact tracing requirements.*
- *Sport and recreation activities are allowed if conditions on gatherings are met, physical distancing is followed, and travel is local.*
- *Public venues can open but must comply with conditions on gatherings and undertake public health measures.*
- *Health services operate as normally as possible.*

- *Schools and Early Childhood Education centres open, with distance learning available for those unable to attend school (e.g. self-isolating).*
- *People advised to avoid non-essential inter-regional travel.*
- *People at high risk of severe illness (older people and those with existing medical conditions) are encouraged to stay at home where possible and take additional precautions when leaving home. They may choose to work.*

Level 2 will likely still require:

- *documenting the arrival and departure of all staff and other personnel on site for contact tracing*
- *physical distancing of 1m or greater in the workplace*

Level 1 measures

- *schools and workplaces open, but must operate safely*
- *rapid contact tracing of any positive case*
- *self-isolation and quarantine required*
- *intensive testing for COVID-19*
- *physical distancing encouraged*
- *staff advised to stay home if they are sick, report flu-like symptoms*
- *staff advised: regularly wash and dry hands, cough into elbow, don't touch your face.*
- *no restrictions on domestic transport – but avoid public transport or travel if sick*
- *border entry measures to minimise risk of importing COVID-19 cases*
- *no restrictions on gatherings*

Level 1 will likely still require:

- *documenting the arrival and departure of all staff and other personnel on site for contact tracing*