



Cook Islands Ministry of Education – National COVID-19 Response Framework

The below framework is a prepared response to the **Cook Islands 4 – level COVID-19 Alert System**. The Alert system is led by Te Marae Ora Ministry of Health and is aligned with New Zealand’s system where each Alert Level describes the different measures required.

ALERT LEVEL 1: PREPARE	ALERT LEVEL 2: REDUCE	ALERT LEVEL 3: RESTRICT	ALERT LEVEL 4: LOCKDOWN
<p>COVID-19 is not present in the Cook Islands and is controlled in New Zealand with no community transmission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine-free travel (QFT) between NZ and the Cook Islands is permitted, providing travelers have spent a minimum, of 14 days in either country before travel. Stay home if you're sick, report flu-like symptoms to TMO. Wash and dry hands thoroughly, cough into elbow, don't touch your face. People are encouraged to maintain a record of where they've been if they haven't registered for Cook safe or downloaded the Cook Safe + contact tracing app. No restrictions on gatherings, workplaces or services, but organisers are encouraged to maintain records of attendees to enable contact tracing. 	<p>COVID-19 is not present in the Cook Islands but there is a case of community transmission in New Zealand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-Isolation and quarantine may be required for some arrivals until negative test results received. There will be intensive targeted testing and contact tracing of arrivals. Travel to the Pa Enea is restricted. Maintain physical distancing of 2 metres from people in public spaces, and 1 metre in workplaces where practical. All educational facilities remain open. Businesses can remain open if maintaining physical distancing and contact tracing. Face-coverings encouraged on public transport and aircraft. Children under 12 are exempt. No more than 100 people permitted at gathering (including weddings and funerals). Restaurants, bars and hospitality businesses must keep groups of customers separated, with maximum 100 people at a time. 	<p>COVID-19 has been detected in the Cook Islands and community transmission may be occurring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-way QFT and passenger arrival suspended for a minimum of 72 hours. Intensive targeted testing of recent arrivals and close contacts from previous 14 days. Self-Isolation and quarantine required for recent arrivals for a minimum of 7 days. Closure of all educational facilities, churches, sport and social activities and other non-essential services for 72 hours. People instructed to stay home in their bubble other than for essential personal movement for a minimum period of 72 hours. People must work from home unless that is not possible. Pa Enea travel is highly restricted. Gatherings of up to 10 people allowed but only for funerals or weddings. 	<p>There is more than one case of COVID-19 in the Cook Islands and community transmission may be occurring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People must stay home in their bubbles other than for essential activities, including work. Businesses closed except for essential services (example supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics, petrol stations) and lifeline utilities. Domestic/Pa Enea travel is severely limited. Two-way QFT and passenger arrivals suspended for a minimum of 14 days. Intensive targeted testing of recent arrivals and close contacts from previous 14 days. Self-Isolation and quarantine required for recent arrivals for a minimum period of 14 days Face coverings mandatory with physical distancing and hygiene practices maintained outside your bubble All gathering cancelled and all public venues and non-essential businesses closed. All educational facilities closed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and disability care services operate as normally as possible. Sport and recreation activities allowed, subject to approval by TMO. Certain conditions such as physical distancing where practical, restrictions on numbers of contact tracing required. Public venues can open if they comply with public health measures and ensure 2 metre physical distancing and contact tracing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare services must use non-contact and virtual consultations where possible. Face covering mandatory with physical distancing and hygiene practices maintain outside your bubble. Businesses cannot offer services that involve close personal contact, unless it is a supermarket, primary produce retailer, pharmacy, petrol station or hardware store providing foods to trade customers, or it is an emergency or critical situation. Recommend NZ visitors to return to NZ as soon as practically able. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare is reprioritized. Rationing of supplies and requisition of facilities is possible.
EDUCATION RESPONSE: ALERT LEVEL 1: PREPARE	EDUCATION RESPONSE: ALERT LEVEL 2: REDUCE	EDUCATION RESPONSE: ALERT LEVEL 3: RESTRICT	EDUCATION RESPONSE: ALERT LEVEL 4: LOCKDOWN
<p>COVID-19 is not present in the Cook Islands and is controlled in New Zealand with no community transmission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education sector takes lead from TMO and all education facilities are open. QFT travel between NZ and the Cook Islands for the purpose of official duty travel is taken in line with Public Service requirements. QFT travel between NZ and the Cook Islands for rest and recreation is taken in line with leave policies and at traveler's own risk. Unwell staff and students are to remain at home, following TMO guidelines. Contact tracing App active and in use across all education facilities. All visitors welcomed to education facilities and requested to tag in. Hygiene measures reinforced across all education facilities – including regular wiping down of surfaces and items, and sanitizing. 	<p>COVID-19 is not present in the Cook Islands but there is a case of community transmission in New Zealand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education sector takes lead from TMO and all education facilities are open. Self-isolation and/or quarantine may be required for all staff and students who have traveled internationally until negative test results received. Official duty travel to and from the Pa Enua restricted. Unwell staff and students are to remain at home, following TMO guidelines. Increased monitoring of student and staff absences. Contact tracing App active and in use across all education facilities. School visitors, walk-in's may be restricted. All visitors are requested to tag in and physical distance, where appropriate. Hygiene measures reinforced across all education facilities – including regular wiping down of 	<p>COVID-19 has been detected in the Cook Islands and community transmission may be occurring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education sector takes lead from TMO and all education facilities are closed for 72 hours, or as directed by TMO. International travel suspended. Pa Enua travel restricted. Self-isolation and/or quarantine required for all staff and students who have traveled internationally as stipulated by TMO. Learning During COVID-19 Alert Level 3 activated - Home learning resources distributed by schools and tertiary providers, in line with TMO guidelines. NCEA examinations and assessments continue, and guided by NZQA Alert Level 3 requirements. Pastoral care processes active including 0800 3333 free hotline established for all school aged students and staff to access counselling support. 	<p>There is more than one case of COVID-19 in the Cook Islands and community transmission may be occurring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education sector takes lead from TMO and all education facilities are closed. International travel suspended. Pa Enua travel severely limited. Self-isolation and/or quarantine required for all staff and students who have traveled internationally as stipulated by TMO. Learning During COVID-19 Alert Level 4 activated - Home learning resources distributed by schools and tertiary providers, in line with TMO guidelines. NCEA examinations and assessments are suspended due to school closures. NQZA will inform of alternative date options for any region experiencing Alert level 4. Pastoral care processes active including 0800 3333 free hotline established for all school aged students and staff

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No restrictions on professional development opportunities, large scale national education events or school/ sporting events. Organizers will enable contact tracing or maintain records of attendees. • NCEA examinations and assessments continue, and guided by NZQA requirements. • 0800 3333 free hotline established for all school aged students and staff to access counselling support. • MoE specific DRM policies and guidelines re-evaluated, if needed. 	<p>surfaces and items, and sanitizing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictions on professional development opportunities, large scale national education events or school/ sporting events may be applied, upon advice from TMO. • NCEA examinations and assessments continue, and guided by NZQA Alert level 2 requirements. • Pastoral care processes active including 0800 3333 free hotline established for all school aged students and staff to access counselling support. Regular check-ins with scholarship students, and impacted staff. • MoE specific DRM policies and guidelines re-evaluated, if needed. • COVID preparedness revisited for schools, providers and HQ. 	<p>Regular check-ins with scholarship students, and impacted staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional development opportunities, large scale national education events or school/ sporting events postponed. • Essential staff only working from MoE HQ – with PPE and physical distancing practices in place. • Work from home arrangements for all non-essential MoE HQ staff – Activating ‘Home Bubble’. • Re-evaluated school academic calendar, if required. • MoE specific DRM policies and guidelines re-evaluated, if needed. • COVID preparedness revisited for schools, providers and HQ for Alert Level 4. 	<p>to access counselling support. Regular check-ins with scholarship students, and impacted staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional development opportunities, large scale national education events or school/ sporting events cancelled. • Work from home arrangements for all MoE HQ staff. • Re-evaluated school academic calendar, if required. • MoE specific DRM policies and guidelines re-evaluated, if needed.
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For further enquires, contact Planning & Development Director - PDDirector@education.gov.ck