



MPI Guidance for primary or food business workers moving between regions operating at different COVID-19 Alert Levels

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Purpose

These guidelines provide information on the minimum requirements that should be put in place to prevent transmission of COVID-19 when essential primary or food business staff are moving between regions at different COVID-19 Alert Levels.

Where possible staff should operate only within regions at the same COVID-19 Alert Level, or alternative methods of working found. However, where this is not possible due to resourcing, staff should follow the following guidance to manage the risk of transmission of COVID-19 between regions.

The main principle of this guidance is that the requirements of the higher Alert Level region are followed during the whole journey plan. A journey plan for a staff member refers to all travel between regions at different COVID-19 Alert Levels until a period of 14 days elapses in which they will remain in regions at the same Alert Level.

Eligibility for work

- All staff should stay at home if they are unwell and report to the Manager for further instructions.
- Anyone who has been identified as a close contact of a suspect or confirmed case must self-isolate, report to the Manager and not come to work for 14 days. This includes staff who have returned to reside in a region at a lower Alert Level.
- Employers should confirm the health status of staff residing in a higher Alert Level region before transiting to work in a lower Alert Level.

- Employers should continue to check on the health status of staff residing in a lower Alert Level region in the following days after returning from work in a higher Alert Level region. Staff should be well briefed in identifying Covid-19 like symptoms.
- Any staff feeling ill with Covid-19 like symptoms in transit between regions, upon entry to work, or at work, should report immediately to their Manager. All workers at that work site having contact with ill staff should be treated the same and managed as specified in MoH guidelines. (<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>)

Physical distancing

- Staff should adhere at all times to the physical distancing requirements of the highest alert level in their journey plan (either in transit, residence or working). The exceptions are if the staff member does not leave a vehicle transiting a region at a higher Alert Level, or is able to work in a region at a higher Alert Level without any interaction with other staff or the public.
- Staff working in primary or food business should adhere to the physical distancing requirements of that site for the highest Alert Level in their journey plan, even if that site is not in a region at that level. Employers should facilitate this.

Hygiene

- Staff should be instructed in correct use of masks. (<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-workers>).
- Staff should be instructed in all aspects of safety hygiene e.g. cover coughs, sneezes with their elbow or use tissues (disposing of any tissues promptly), avoid touching their face unless they have washed their hands; such instruction should be periodically repeated.
- Staff must adhere at all times to the mask wearing of the highest Alert Level in their journey plan (either in transit, residence or working). The exceptions are if the staff member does not leave a vehicle transiting a region at a higher Alert Level or is able to work in a region at a higher Alert Level without any interaction with other staff or the public.
- Staff working in primary or food business should adhere to the mask and other PPE wearing protocol of that site for the highest Alert Level in their journey plan, even if that site is not in a region at that level. Employers should facilitate this.
- Mask wearing is not necessary in single occupancy vehicles.
- Pool vehicles should be issued with cleaning wipes and sanitiser. Staff using a pool vehicle should sanitise their hands before driving and wipe down driving surfaces with a cleaning wipe at the end of the journey.

Workplace bubbles

- Where possible staff transiting between different Alert Level regions should be grouped into workplace bubbles to limit the interaction with staff working and residing in either the higher or lower Alert Level.

Other requirements

- Staff working at or visiting multiple premises should ensure they are aware of and follow the safety plan or protocol in operation at all sites.
- All premises should apply for and display the NZ COVID Tracer QR code posters to ensure staff can record their visits.
- All staff should be encouraged to download and register on the NZ COVID Tracer app and maintain a digital diary of the locations they visit.
- Staff should follow all directions given at checkpoints between regions at different Alert Levels.
- Staff must carry essential worker identification for transiting into a higher Alert Level region (3 and 4) and at all times of their movement in a higher Alert Level region.

Further information

- MPI guidance for meat, poultry and seafood processing at Alert Level 3:
<https://mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/41601>
- MPI general guidance at Alert Level 3:
<https://mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/41598>
- MPI general guidance at Alert Level 2:
<https://mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/41604>

Further guidelines for staff travelling to and from a workplace are provided by the Ministry of Transport and MBIE. Guidance for these areas can be found here.

<https://www.transport.govt.nz/about/covid-19/transport-and-travel-by-alert-level/>
<https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19/>