



## Bulletin – Domestic and International Students

24<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

### COVID-19 Update

This situation is a first for the entire country and we will be regularly updating you with information to help you better understand what is happening and how it affects you.

The Government has announced that we are now at COVID-19 alert level 3, and will be moving to alert level 4 in 48 hours. [Information about the four level alert system is here.](#)

#### ***What happens to my studies now my provider has to close?***

- All providers will close for face-to-face teaching, by midnight 25th March.
- They are busy trying to make alternative arrangements to deliver your study.
- So the message is stay in touch with your provider in the usual way through their website, Facebook and other social media pages and keep checking your email.
- It is really important not to make any quick or reactive decisions to withdraw from study.

#### ***To keep getting your Student Allowance or Loan you need to be enrolled***

- You will continue to receive your weekly StudyLink payments if you remain enrolled – so please stay enrolled.
- Answers to questions in relation to Student Allowance and Living Cost payments can be found on StudyLink's website <https://www.studylink.govt.nz/>.

#### ***What if I'm in a hall of residence/hostel/homestay?***

- Some of you may still be in your accommodation because you can't get home or it's the only accommodation you have.
- Please don't be concerned, your accommodation provider is there to help you
- Nothing will change until new arrangements have been made for all students.
- The main thing is to just follow the advice and directions from the Ministry of Health to self-isolate and be super vigilant with your personal distancing and hygiene [MOH guidelines.](#)

- Your provider is there to provide support and to help you to access medical services if you need them.

### ***Wellbeing – looking after yourself***

- If you're feeling anxious or lonely, there are a number of free counselling services you can use. You can find contact details for these services and other advice on the [NauMai NZ Feeling lonely, homesick or depressed page](#)
- There is also information on this page to help you keep in contact with friends and family. It is more important than ever to maintain these connections.
- It is ok to go for a walk. You do not have to be in your room all the time. However you must maintain a two meter distance from other people at all times.

### ***Travel and visa advice for international students***

- You may not be able to return home as flights may not be available and some borders have closed
- We have asked providers to keep in close contact with you to ensure that you have access to suitable accommodation and, are supported to deal with visa issues, travel insurance, and other essential arrangements.
- For international students with visas that will soon expire, it is very important that you apply for a new one before it expires. An interim visa will be issued if the current visa expires while a new visa is being assessed.

### ***Where to go to get more information***

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 official Government 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/>

For more advice for students visit the Ministry of Education website

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

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>