



Southern Lakes Business Response Group

COVID-19 – Update 17 – 17/04/2020 – 4.00pm

*Here's the latest update from the **Southern Lakes Business Response & Recovery team***

This afternoon, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that New Zealand would stay at Level 4 until 12.59pm next Monday 27 April one week from today, when the alert level would drop to Level 3. **Read the full speech here.**

The weeks' notice enables businesses able to operate under Level 3 to ensure they are in a position to do so safely, which includes getting access to premises/sites to receive stock etc this week in preparation, providing they follow the health and safety protocols in place for COVID-19 for staff and customers. The PM was clear this is not an opportunity to start trading early, more to get your house in order prior to next Tuesday.

We will be in Alert Level 3 for two weeks before making further decisions at Cabinet on 11 May. The PM was clear to outline that this date is a review point and we cannot discount moving back to Level 4 if things are not tracking in the right direction or staying at Level 3 for longer. Stressing the importance of everyone following the rules around Alert Level 3.

It's important that businesses now familiarize themselves with the Level 3 guidelines - outlined again below - specific to their own sector and circumstances, and make plans to get their business and staff up and running safely come next Tuesday.

New guidelines for construction under Level 3 have also been released and can be found below.

The next group update will be this Friday 24 April to ensure all new and relevant information is shared prior to going to Level 3. All key updates in between will be posted online here at the [local COVID-19 page](#) and the [Government page here](#).

What else is new?

There have been a number of clarifications and additional information shared over the weekend for businesses, including how the construction industry can operate safely under Level 3.

- ACC is giving firms more time and flexibility in making their levy payments this year. Invoices for the 2020/21 financial year will now be issued in October 2020 instead of July 2020. For more information **visit here**.
- A wide range of new content has been added to the **business.govt.nz** website regarding workplace restrictions at different alert levels.
- Businesses should carefully consider how to safely operate at each alert level based on their individual circumstances. WorkSafe has created **guidance about safe working during this pandemic**.

- The construction industry has developed a framework to keep workers, their whānau and the wider community healthy and safe. The framework allows businesses to develop a plan specific to their project, site and business risks. **Visit [Site Safe](#) and [CHASNZ](#) for more information.**

BusinessNZ Update - Minister Grant Robertson - [Click here](#) to read the Minister's full address to the business community last week.

Immigration NZ – Migrant and refugee information – INZ has created an online portal containing information for Settlement service providers, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO), community groups, or individuals who work with or know recent migrants and/or former refugees. **[Click here for details.](#)**

Inland Revenue - Inland Revenue's fourth transformation release is now live, following a few days offline to deploy the latest updates. **Key changes you'll see are:**

- enhancements to online services, specifically myIR, including improved navigation, more information available online and in one place, and more self-service options
- better services for student loan and KiwiSaver customers, along with some changes for our Working for Families customers
- some enhanced Gateway Services capability
- a new employee onboarding process. Information sent to employers will be more streamlined and consolidated.

Welfare - Airlines and countries continue to look at repatriating their citizens currently in New Zealand who wish to get home. The Philippines embassy is the latest country asking their nationals to register for a repatriation flight ex-New Zealand. There are a large number of people from the Philippines in our region and it's important for them to know their embassy is trying to support them and they are encouraged to [register interest here](#).

Good Reads:

- **Rob Fyfe: Preparing us and business for a life after Covid-19 and lockdown** - An NZ Herald (premium-pay to view) story that's worth a read.
- Economist Tony Alexander gathered opinion and insight from 89 people who have handled recessions previously and crafted this into an advisory piece with some clear themes around planning, communication, cash flow and more. **[Click here to read more and subscribe to regular updates.](#)**

Reminder:

Level 3 - Highlights below and full details [online here](#) for Level 3 when we get there next week.

1. Stay home. If you are not at work, school, exercising or getting essentials, then you must be at home, the same as at Level 4.
2. Work and learn from home if you can. We still want the vast majority of people working from home, and children and young people learning from home. At-risk students and staff should also stay at home, and they will be supported to do so. Early learning centres and schools will physically be open for up to Year 10 for families that need them.

3. Make your business COVID-19 safe. COVID-19 has spread in workplaces, so the quid pro quo of being able to open is doing it in a way that doesn't spread the virus. Important industries like construction, manufacturing and forestry will be able to open, as will retail so long as it is contactless retail.
4. Stay regional. You can exercise at parks or beaches within your region, but the closer to home the better. Activities must be safe – keep 2 metres away from anybody not in your bubble. Make minimal trips.
5. Keep your bubble as small as possible. If you need to, you can expand your bubble a small amount to bring in close family, isolated people or caregivers.
6. Wash your hands often with soap. Then dry them. Cough into your elbow.
7. If you're sick, stay at home and seek advice from your GP or Healthline about getting a test. And quickly. There is no stigma to COVID-19. None. We will only be successful if everyone is willing to play their part in finding it wherever it is.

Webinars

Tourism and Hospitality specific

Hospitality industry - The Restaurant Association is holding weekly webinars for members and non-members on topics including restructuring, social media marketing, food costing and more.

[Click here for all training and webinars](#)

Building specific

Infometrics COVID-19 Building Forecasts Focus - hosted by Senior Economist Brad Olsen and Infometrics Chief Forecaster Gareth Kiernan - Wednesday 22 April 2020, 11am.

Brad will outline how the economy is shaping up as New Zealand moves closer to Level 3 restrictions, while Gareth will then discuss the latest Infometrics forecasts, including an outline of our views on the magnitude of the hit to the New Zealand economy from COVID-19 and what the road to recovery might look like. As well as looking at the key macroeconomic outcomes, Gareth will focus on the outlook for the construction industry and examine the key drivers for activity. Where appropriate, Gareth will also look at variations in prospects at a regional level. There will be time for questions at the end. **You can [register for the webinar here](#).**

General business and economic

Cashflow clinics – NZTE Investment is offering private one-to-one Cashflow Clinics to NZTE customers. [Click here to register via Doodle.](#)

Tues 21, Weds 22 and Thurs 23 April 2020 - Morning clinic - 10-11.30am and afternoon clinic 1-2.30pm. **The clinics will focus on the following -**

- Identifying working capital issues
- Analysis of cash position / runways
- Review of possible cost savings
- Sources of cashflow within the business
- Review of capital / funding position
- Guidance on possible sources of funds

If you have any problems registering, you can't find a suitable time or there are no available spots left, please contact Briar Naish - Programme Coordinator by email briar.naish@nzte.govt.nz or phone 09 354 9086 for assistance or to arrange an alternative time.

Findex and KiwiBank - COVID-19 economic update webinar with chief economist Jarrod Kerr, Kiwibank - Wednesday 22 April, 10-11am. [Register here.](#)

Jarrod will bring us through the current climate and what may occur in the coming months with a focus on:

- COVID-19 Overview – Curve flattening, Government response, how did we get to this position and a comparison with previous pandemics e.g. SARS
- Economic impact – Consequences and recovery
- Market outlook – Speed of recovery / ease of restrictions

Harnessing your Resilience during COVID-19 - facilitated by Workplace Support Southern Training & Development Manager, Trudy Schievink.

- Thursday 23rd April 10am - [Click here to register](#)

We are living through an unprecedented event that means our world is changing rapidly around us. Now is the time for us to ensure we are looking after ourselves so we can in turn, look after others. How we view these challenges and respond to this specific event will influence the way we navigate through this COVID-19 crisis.

This one-hour online webinar introduces how resiliency can enhance our capacity to effectively manage during this crisis. It includes identifying sources and symptoms of stress, explores the importance of harnessing resiliency and introduces resiliency strategies and resources.

Preparing for the Redundancy Process - Hosted by John Farrow (Employment Partner) Anderson Lloyd - Tuesday 21st April 2020

Unfortunately for some businesses the Government's Wage Subsidy cannot prevent the inevitable. Redundancies need to be based on a sound business rationale but also need to be procedurally fair. A flawed redundancy can give rise to personal grievances and a successful personal grievance can result in compensation and lost wages, in addition to any redundancy compensation that you have already paid as part of your redundancy process.

In this Webinar John will discuss the restructuring and redundancy processes, including good faith consultation requirements; provision of necessary information and consideration of redeployment options. **Register in advance for this webinar: [Click here](#)**

FAQs

Business FAQs on COVID-19 - How do I apply for the subsidy, what does it mean for my business, the economy, my staff etc. [BDO has set up a great resource here.](#)

General FAQs on COVID-19 - What it is, what self-isolation and level 4 means etc. [Click here for the COVID-19 website.](#)

Local FAQs on COVID-19 - What services are available, how can I get help etc. [Click here for local Council information.](#)

Local Business FAQs- Up-to-date [local information for businesses here.](#)

We are here to help, so if you have any concerns, or are not getting the support you need, from the resources, please contact anyone below.

Destination Queenstown – Ann Lockhart – CEO – annl@queenstownNZ.nz

Queenstown Chamber – Anna Mickell – CEO – ceo@queenstownchamber.org.nz

Lake Wanaka Tourism – James Helmore – GM – james@wanaka.co.nz

Ignite Wanaka Chamber – Naomi Lindsay – Executive Officer – naomi@ignitewanaka.co.nz

QLDC Economic Development – Peter Harris – Economic Development Manager
peter.harris@qldc.govt.nz

Regional Business Partners – Tara Druce – Business Advisor – tara@otagorbp.co.nz