

Key dates reminder

26 March	Alert Level 4 commenced
28 March	School holidays begin
10 – 14 April	Easter including the Tuesday after Easter
15 April	Term 2 begins (through distance learning)
22 April	Current date for ending of lockdown period
27 April	ANZAC Day observed

Key lockdown messages from the Prime Minister (Select Committee Media Briefing 25 March)

- If the virus is left unchecked it will have an unacceptable toll on New Zealanders
- Staying at home will break the chain and save lives
- Breaking the rules could risk someone close to you
- If the rules are not complied with, this could risk the lock down period being extended or could risk the virus being spread to thousands
- Success will not be instant. The benefit of actions taken today will not be felt for many days to come. People need to expect the numbers to continue rising, because they will. Modelling indicates that New Zealand could have several thousand cases before today's measures have an impact. However, if everyone sticks to the rules there will be change over time
- Act like you have COVID-19. Every move you make could be a risk to someone else. That is how New Zealanders must collectively think now
- All New Zealanders are urged to be calm, be kind, stay at home
- If people have no explanation of why they are outside the Police will remind them of their obligations and can take enforcement actions if they feel it is necessary
- New Zealanders will want to do the right thing. The Government is being as clear as they can on the guidance and Police will be working with people to help them understand
- Government's goal is to keep people connected to their employer through the wage subsidy, and said if that was not happening then they have the backup mechanism of the welfare system
- In regard to those overseas - even under the most difficult of circumstances - New Zealand is their home.

Update on access to school sites

Some of you have raised questions about access to school sites, so we wanted to explain the decision-making process.

As you can appreciate, given the seriousness of the state of emergency, there is a very tight central command centre that has been set up. It is managed by John Ombler, All of Government Controller, and includes the Commissioner of Police, Director-General of Health, Director of Civil Defence Emergency Management, the General Manager Science at Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment and reports directly to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. The decision not to

allow access to school sites was made by this group as part of a range of decisions affecting all citizens. They are doing so based on considerable information about the nature of COVID-19 and its progress in New Zealand and they are making decisions under pressure of time. The decision to prevent access to school sites is one they have made.