# **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE**

**24 March 2020**

**News / Government Announcements**

**New Zealand moves to Self-Isolation from midnight Wednesday 25 March 2020**

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced yesterday New Zealand was at Covid-19 alert Level 3 rising to alert Level 4 at midnight Wednesday 25 March 2020 and forecast it will last for at least four weeks.

Alert level 4 restrictions mean people need to stay at home (self – isolation), schools and universities will be closed, as well as non-essential businesses, major reprioritisation of health services, and air travel and public transport will only be for essential services.

Every workplace must implement alternative ways of working. People must work from home so that interactions with others are limited.

**Essential services** will need to put in place alternative ways of working, that ensure physical distancing of staff of two metres, and utilise appropriate personal protective equipment.

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2020/03/coronavirus-what-new-zealand-reaching-alert-level-4-will-mean-for-you.html>

**NSW Schools Move to At Home Learning**

Schools in New South Wales remain open however the NSW Government has encouraged parents to keep their children at home.

Online learning programs are to be rolled out by schools in the coming days / weeks. Schools will remain open and for those children who have no option but will not receive regular lessons while at school.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-23/nsw-premier-coronavirus-press-conference-in-full/12080656>

**Queensland to close its Borders from midnight Wednesday 25 March 2020**

Queensland will follow South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory in introducing border restrictions from midnight Wednesday 25 March 2020. The initial stage of the restriction will force anyone entering Queensland to quarantine themselves for 14 days after arrival.

<https://7news.com.au/lifestyle/health-wellbeing/queensland-borders-to-shut-to-stop-coronavirus-spread-premier-announces-c-758261>

**Federal Cabinet to Consider Moving to Level 2 Response Today**

The Prime Minister has flagged that the National Cabinet (made of State and Territory Premiers and Chief Ministers) will meet on Tuesday 24 March 2020 to assess the public health situation and consider whether a Stage 2 Response must be implemented at that time.

Businesses that are not on the list of businesses specified in the Stage 1 Response are permitted to continue to open and operate but must adhere to the “4m2 rule”, maintain social distancing and follow other measures to mitigate against potential infection exposure.

Stage 2 Response would mean introducing measures such as time-shared grocery-shopping system to ensure everyone can purchase essential items without coming into close physical contact with one another.

*Source: Critical Information for Employers in all States and Territories”, Kingston Reid, 23 March 2020)*

<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/health-problems/coronavirus-what-phase-two-of-australias-covid19-response-will-look-like/news-story/212033c27b4ee79b24834eba673fd815>