

Alert level 3 – how businesses will determine if they should operate

24 March 2020 – 5:30pm

Key messages for the shift in approach

- Under Alert Level 3, there are restrictions in place to do with keeping workers safe, and interacting with customers. Businesses must self-assess their ability to meet those rules and to operate safely, just as they would normally to meet their duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act. Government agencies will not make these decisions for businesses.
- The [Business.govt.nz website](https://business.govt.nz) has more information about what you can and can't do under Alert Level 3 as a business.
- The WorkSafe website has general and sector specific guidance that will help businesses determine how they can operate safely. As a part of this, businesses are required to complete a [COVID-19 Work Safe Plan](#) which has had staff input and is shared with staff.
- If a business is unable to operate in accordance with the guidance, it should not open.
- If businesses have further questions, they can call their industry body or WorkSafe for advice.

Compliance

- WorkSafe and MPI are gearing up for Alert Level three and between them will be contacting up to 40,000 - 50,000 businesses to advise and assist their development of a safe work plan.
- Members of the public can report any businesses they suspect may be breaching the Alert Level rules to Police online at www.105.police.govt.nz.
- Health and safety concerns in the workplace can be reported to WorkSafe at <https://worksafe.govt.nz/notifications/health-or-safety-concern/raise-a-concern-form/>.

Standard response to any media queries about how Alert Level 3 will work and whether xx business is in or out

- Information on [life under different alert levels is](#) now available on COVID19.govt.nz, and information for businesses and workers on [workplace restrictions at different alert levels is on business.govt.nz](#).
- Under Alert Level 3, there are restrictions in place to do with keeping workers safe, and interacting with customers. Businesses must self-assess their ability to meet those rules and to operate safely, just as they would normally to meet their duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act. Government agencies will not make these decisions for businesses.
- The [WorkSafe website](#) has general and sector specific guidance that will help businesses determine how they can operate safely. As a part of this, businesses are required to complete a [COVID-19 Work Safe Plan](#) which has had staff input and is shared with staff
- If a business determines it cannot operate safely, or make the necessary changes to do so, it should not open.
- The Ministry of Health also has [specific infectious disease control advice for workplaces](#) .
- Industry organisations will also be issuing specific guidance for certain sectors and kinds of workplaces, and this will be available on the WorkSafe website. If in doubt, businesses can contact WorkSafe, their industry organisation or their local Chamber of Commerce and BusinessNZ.