**Latest COVID-19 health key messages**

**Approved messages for use in your communications**

Consistent messaging helps us to coordinate our efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This document provides approved key messages from the Ministry of Health.

**24 September 2021**

Alert Level restrictions for travel prevent the spread of COVID-19. People moving around create more risk of transmission of the virus than people who are staying at home.

Below are details of the new testing requirements personal travel across the Alert Level boundary which came into effect on 11.59pm, 23 September.

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| **Reason for permitted personal travel** | **Testing requirement** |
| People permitted to travel across Alert Level boundaries for personal reasons (as specified on the [UAC website](https://covid19.govt.nz/travel/permitted-travel-at-different-alert-levels/personal-travel-across-an-alert-level-boundary/#getting-tested-when-crossing-the-boundary)). | In most cases, a negative COVID-19 swab test result received within 72 hours prior to their travel, or proof of a test taken within 7 days prior to travel as detailed on the [UAC website](https://covid19.govt.nz/travel/permitted-travel-at-different-alert-levels/personal-travel-across-an-alert-level-boundary/#getting-tested-when-crossing-the-boundary). |
| People who have been granted an exemption to travel across the Alert Level boundary by MOH, for reasons other than those specified on the [UAC website](https://covid19.govt.nz/travel/permitted-travel-at-different-alert-levels/personal-travel-across-an-alert-level-boundary/#getting-tested-when-crossing-the-boundary). | A negative COVID-19 swab test result received within 72 hours prior to travel |

There are two exceptions to the testing requirements. No test is required for the following:

* One way travel – people travelling from Alert Level 2 into Alert Level 3 and then remaining there.
* A health care appointment (including vaccinations) – people travelling from their place of residence in Alert Level 2 into Alert Level 3 for their health care appointment, and then back into Alert Level 2. Evidence of their appointment will need to be shown if requested.

Please note that the testing requirements for permitted workers crossing the Alert Level boundary are unchanged – proof of a test taken 7 days prior to their travel.

***Testing for this purpose is free.*** Nasal swab tests are available at community testing centres, urgent care clinics and GPs across the country. Go to [www.healthpoint.co.nz](http://www.healthpoint.co.nz/)  for details of locations of testing sites.

For full details about these testing requirements, visit the [Unite Against COVID-19 website.](https://covid19.govt.nz/travel/permitted-travel-at-different-alert-levels/personal-travel-across-an-alert-level-boundary/)

Pop-up testing sites will be available at the boundary to support this new testing requirement over the next couple of days as follows:

* Hampton Downs, Gate 3 from 9am to 3.30pm until tomorrow, 24 September
* Waitomo Te Hana, details to come

We thank you for your continued efforts to keep New Zealanders safe and COVID-19 out of our communities This additional testing will provide an assurance that travel is being done safely and prevent COVID-19 crossing boundaries from these higher risk settings.