

Hi everyone

PRRA Staff Daily Update – Special Edition – Thursday 16 April 2020

The Prime Minister has this afternoon released information about what Alert Level 3 will mean for New Zealanders. An overview of the material for Alert Level 3 can be found at the following link:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-3/#overview>

The date for moving to Alert Level 3 has not yet been set. The move to Alert Level 3 will not be made too early and will require that four criteria have been met:

- community transmission is under control, and the transmission rate is very low.
- there are robust measures at the border stopping new infection.
- tracing and testing capacity are available to shut down any new outbreak.
- there are supplies for, and capacity, in the health system.

Under Alert Level 3 there will still be significant restrictions on our day-to-day lives. The risk of COVID-19 will have diminished, but not gone away.

Under Alert Level 3 people must continue to stay in their household bubbles whenever they are not at work, school, buying the groceries or exercising. Bubbles may expand to include caregivers and close family members.

Workers and Business

Most, but not all businesses can start to open under Alert Level 3. They must take health measures to keep their workers safe. Workers must work from home if they can. Workplaces must operate safely – keeping one metre between workers, recording who is working together, limiting interaction between groups of workers, disinfecting surfaces, and maintaining high hygiene standards. Most workers will not require PPE to stay safe at work. Incorrectly used PPE can create more risk. Good hygiene measures like hand washing with soap and water, physical distancing, sneeze and cough etiquette, and wiping down surfaces is the best defence against COVID-19.

At risk people

People at higher-risk of severe illness (older people, or those with underlying medical conditions) are encouraged to stay home where possible, and take additional precautions when leaving home, like avoiding supermarkets, or touching any surfaces. Do not interact with people from outside your bubble. Consider getting others to deliver your supermarket shop, or ordering online. If at risk people considering leaving their home should seek advice before doing so – for example from a friend, family member or medical professional.

Travel

Travel is still restricted, and is only allowed for permitted movement in your local area – e.g. for going to work or school, shopping, or getting exercise.

Staying safe and well

At every alert level people should take measures to stay safe and well.

- Regularly disinfect surfaces
- Wash and dry your hands thoroughly and regularly
- Don't touch your face
- Stay home if you are sick
- Get tested for COVID-19 if you have flu like symptoms – call your GP or Healthline
- Continue to seek primary medical care.

Gatherings

Gatherings present a very high risk of transmitting COVID-19, and acceptable gatherings are very limited. Up to 10 people can gather for:

- Funerals and tangihanga
- Wedding ceremonies (not receptions).

What does this mean for the Pike River Recovery Agency?

- Until the Alert Level is reduced from 4 to 3 we continue to be in the planning phase developing 'safe return to work plans and resources'.
- The expectation is that most Agency workers, both mine and office based personnel will continue to work from home during Alert Level 3 as per the Government guidelines.
- At Alert Level 3 the mine site will move from care and maintenance mode and be in a transition phase with a limited number of statutory officials and workers (up to 9) being in a more "active /hands on mode" than they are under the current care and maintenance arrangements so that the transition back to full re-entry mode could be made, at the appropriate time, as quickly and easily as possible. The main change at Alert Level 3 will be the re-ventilating of the drift with fresh air which was occurring pre Alert Level 4.

More details regarding the 'safe return to work plans' will be made available next week as the plans are being firmed up and the Government makes further announcements. I thank you for your patience.

Further information about Alert Level 3 will be released over the next few days.

Keep an eye on the www.covid19.govt.nz website.

Thanks

Michelle