

Southern Lakes Business Response Group

COVID-19 – Update 49 – 23 August 2021

*Here's the latest update from the **Southern Lakes Business Response & Recovery team***

Here's the latest information for businesses on COVID-19 following the Prime Minister's 4.00pm update today.

The Prime Minister has announced, following today's cabinet meeting, that due to the number of cases in Auckland, that Auckland will remain in lockdown for a further 7 days until 11.59pm Tuesday 31 August and this will be reviewed on Monday.

The rest of New Zealand will remain in Level 4 lockdown for a further four days until 11:59pm this Friday 27 August and this will be reviewed on Friday.

Our next update will be on Friday or if there are any major announcements for businesses made in the meantime.

What's New?

Record keeping to become mandatory for most events and businesses

- Record keeping will be mandatory in some businesses and locations, for everyone aged 12 and over.
- They will be required to have systems and processes in place to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that people scan the QR code for the place or gathering or provide details in a contact tracing record.
- Places where it will be mandatory to ensure records are kept will include: cafes, restaurants, bars, casinos and concerts, aged care, healthcare facilities (excluding patients), barbers, exercise facilities, nightclubs, libraries, courts, local and central government agencies, and social services providers with customer service counters.
- This will become effective seven days after any change in Alert Level settings that might allow more businesses to open or gatherings to go ahead.

Childcare for Alert Level 4 workers

- Workers who have children aged up to 13-years-old can now access free childcare.
- A list of 32 providers, with national coverage, will be available for parents to contact.
- These providers may offer options for childcare under the scheme either in the child's home, or in the carer's home.
- To access a provider, parents can go to the Ministry of Education's [website](#).

Min. Hipkin's PR regarding childcare for Level 4 workers can be found [here](#)

Min. Hipkin's PR regarding mandatory contact tracing can be found [here](#)

Business support for businesses and workers

Financial support for businesses who have been impacted by the move to Alert Level 4 is now available. There are a few support initiatives available and here is our guide to what support is available and the criteria.

[Click here](#) to download the guide.

Business NZ Network and the Otago Chamber of Commerce hosted a webinar last Friday providing insight and guidance on the economic response and financial support available to businesses along with top tips for prioritising mental health and supporting employee wellbeing. Speakers include Grant Robertson and Jimi Hunt. **You can view the recording by [registering here](#).**

Working from home

We've been here before, and we're well versed on working from home, but the team at Benestar have put together a guide on how to best work from home to stay healthy and productive. [Click here](#) to download

The next 'Take Stock' webinar, hosted by Benestar for the Southern Lakes community, is being held on Tues Sep 7. This one is on **Managing your optimism, resilience and wellbeing**. [Click here for details and to RSVP](#).

Keeping your team upskilled during lockdown

Here's some links to online courses that may be useful for your teams to enroll in and develop their learning during lockdown. We will continue to add to this list:

Hospitality Courses

Service IQ - Whether it's new staff you need to upskill quickly, or experienced people who need a refresh, the courses are practical and contain the essential information you need to know to help protect and build your business. They are also quick, can be completed anytime, anywhere, and when you succeed you gain a certificate.

Click here to view courses

<https://www.serviceiq.org.nz/training/online-short-courses/>

Learn Te Reo

Toro Mai from Massey University offers two introductory online courses in Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Māori. These are taught via an immersive multi-media online platform with interactive activities. They are approximately 10 hours each and can be studied at your own pace. These courses are not accredited - there are no costs involved, no assignments and no exams.

https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/international/where-can-i-study/study-online/toromai/toromai_home.cfm

Digital Skills with General Assembly A Leader in Education

Learn new skills in just a few hours alongside industry experts.

Click [here](#) to view courses

Here's a reminder on some other things that may be useful:

Mental health and wellbeing support

Here's some contact details if you, your team or family need help. Please reach out.

- There's information about [local health and social services](#) online or if you're after some wellbeing tips, check out www.allright.org.nz or follow them on [Facebook](#).
- The Business Response Group (BRG) has a resilience initiative available called **Take Stock**. This involves 3 free counselling sessions available for any small and mid-size enterprises (SMEs) business owner located within the Queenstown Lakes District. Confidential services are offered through Benestar. To access this service contact Benestar on 0800 360 364 or counsellingsupportnz@benestar.com and quote the 'Take stock' program to redeem the sessions. As part of this, a free webinar is offered once a month to any owners, employees and family members of businesses within the Queenstown Lakes.
- **What resources are available for teens and young people?**
There is dedicated support available to help support the mental wellbeing of our rangatahi. A range of online and digital self-help tools and resources are available:
[Melon](#)
[Youthline](#)'s free call, text or web chat
[Sparklers](#)
There is also information on the [COVID-19 website](#) for adults, about how to help keep children safe and reassured.

Immediate safety

- If you feel scared, threatened, or unsafe, please call the Police via 111. If you can't call, message a friend and ask them to call on your behalf. You can leave your bubble if you're worried about your safety. If you need to talk, you can call: Family violence information line 0800 456 450; Youthline on 0800 376 633, free text 234 or email talk@youthline.co.nz; Safe to Talk sexual harm helpline 0800 044334, text 4334, email support@safetotalk.nz

Useful resources for more information

[COVID-19: Information for businesses](#)

[COVID-19 New Zealand Government updates](#)

[Ministry of Health website for the latest updates on COVID-19](#)

[Work & Income NZ - COVID-19 Support](#)



We are here to help so if you have any concerns or are not getting the support you need from the resources, please contact anyone below:

Destination Queenstown – Paul Abbot – CEO – paul@queenstownNZ.nz

Queenstown Chamber – Ruth Stokes – CEO – ceo@queenstownchamber.org.nz

Lake Wānaka Tourism – Tim Barke - GM – gm@wanaka.co.nz

Ignite Wānaka Chamber – Naomi Lindsay – General Manager – naomi@ignitewanaka.co.nz

QLDC Economic Development – Peter Harris – Economic Development Manager
peter.harris@qldc.govt.nz

Regional Business Partners – Tara Druce – Business Advisor – tara@otagorbp.co.nz