

Alert level 3 – a guide for residents and families, September 2021

We would like to update you on what the Government's move to COVID-19 Alert Level 3 means for you. The RVA has developed these guidelines in conjunction with our members and reflects best practice in these uncertain times.

As the Prime Minister has said, maintaining social distance, practising good hygiene and restrictions on social contact remain the same. Sadly, the 70+ age group is the most vulnerable.

As a nation we have been very successful at managing the pandemic so far – and that success is down to the superb cooperation we have had from you all since the COVID-19 emergency began. We have had a huge amount of support for the measures we have taken, and we appreciate this.

Individual villages may vary aspects of the factsheet in line with their company policies because it's not always possible to have a 'one size fits all' approach.

A small expansion to your bubble

We know that many residents experienced difficulties in the level 4 lockdown, so in line with wider public policy, residents are invited to nominate one other person either from within or outside the village to join their bubble, but please make sure you talk to the village manager first. The level 4 rules around the extended bubble still apply – you can't expand it any more beyond your new bubble buddy.

However, if you're living in a villa, a friend or family member can drop things off at your door and say hello – provided they wear a mask and keep two metres away!

Please let the village know who your new bubble buddy is and we will keep a record of that person.

Please also keep your own records of who you see, where, and when, for the same reason.

Make sure you use the Government's Covid-19 tracing app. It's easy to use; ask a staff member to assist if you need to.

If your visitor is coming from outside the village, they'll need to scan the QR Code and register with the village reception, and confirm that they are free of any flu-like symptoms and in good health, but their contact with you will be limited to that outlined above.

Please do not invite anyone else to the village until your village manager says that it is safe to do so. Our aim is to continue to maintain the village as a safe haven for you.

External contractors

Building work is permitted under level 3 and you may see contractors and others coming into the village. All suppliers and contractors will need to register with the village and, if this is their first visit for the week, sign a declaration that they do not have any flu-like symptoms.

They should proceed directly to their job site, complete their business promptly and leave the village.

Unite
against
COVID-19

New residents

We can continue sales of ORAs in level 3, so there may be an occasional person visiting to check out their new home. Again, we will be making sure these people keep their distance and we will ensure all cleaning protocols are strictly observed after their visit.

Village staff

We appreciate the work of our village team, who, we hope you'll agree, have been doing a great job.

Village staff will continue to be screened each day and will continue to work with strict infection controls in place. They will be available to you as they were during the level 4 lockdown.

Village amenities

Our approach to managing the community facilities reflects the approach taken in the wider community. This means that, sadly, the village's amenities will remain closed until the country or region goes to level 2. This is to make sure the risk of transmission of Covid-19 is minimised.

Resident activity groups should also remain inactive while we are in level 3. We appreciate that this may cause some concern, but the importance of keeping our community safe cannot be stressed highly enough.

However, you can still exercise outside your home or the village as you did while in alert level 4, provided you wear a mask and keep at least two metres from anyone else not in your bubble.

Deliveries and services

The Government recommends that if you're not well, you should stay at home unless you're going to a medical appointment. If you're fit and well, you can leave the village and go shopping, exercise or keep a medical appointment, but please take care, wear a mask, and follow the hygiene advice.

Deliveries and services will continue as they did during level 4. The aim is to deliver anything you need so that you do not need to leave the village.

If there is anything you need please do not hesitate to get in touch with your village team.

Mental wellbeing

We know the lockdown at level 3, is likely to be stressful for you. It's really important that you continue to join in with village activities where you can.

If you need more assistance, please contact Healthline for free on **0800 358 5453**, or your GP if you begin to feel unwell. The symptoms of COVID-19 are cough, fever, and shortness of breath.

For all non-health related questions, call **0800 Government (0800 779 997)**.

Vaccinations

Thank you if you have had your two covid-19 vaccinations. We understand that your DHB will be in touch with you by email, phone or letter if you haven't had both your vaccinations.

Staying safe and well

At every alert level you 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
- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth whenever you are outside of your home or where it's difficult to remain physically distanced from others.
- Get tested for COVID-19 if you have flu like symptoms – call your GP or Healthline
- Continue to seek primary medical care.

We know we have been conservative throughout these guidelines, and we know it has been hard at times. If the restrictions are causing hardship for you or your family, please do not hesitate to let your village manager know.

**The principle is simple: Stay home, save lives.
This will break the chain of community transmission.**



Further information

Please check the Ministry of Health's website <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid19-novel-coronavirus> where you can find information specifically for older people.