

# COVID-19

## NZAPI Frequently Asked Questions

This is a living document, we will add and update questions and answers as information comes to hand or the situation evolves.

### Where can I find up to date information?

The dedicated NZ government COVID-19 website has good, clear and up-to-date information, this is available here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

NZAPI will send out regular updates as soon as we have access to information. These emails will come from 'NZAPI COVID-19'. NZAPI have a dedicated COVID-19 page with information on our [website here](#).

### What is NZ's current Alert Level and what does this mean?

New Zealand is at Alert Level 4 from 11.59 pm on Wednesday 25 March. **[More information on our alert level](#)**

### What templates and resources are available?

- Guidance document for registering as an essential business is [here](#).
- Protocol for COVID-19 – A template for businesses
- NZ Government COVID-19 website has a range of posters: <https://covid19.govt.nz/resources-and-translation/resources/>

## Business continuity

### How long will this be in place for?

The restrictions are likely to be in place for 4 weeks. The register for 'essential businesses' will remain in place until the National Alert Level has been lowered.

### Am I considered an 'essential business' (and able to operate under Covid-19 level 4 lockdowns)?

All orchards, pack houses, cool stores and export entities are essential services. You can continue to operate, but there will be strict rules in place that allow you to continue to do so. Information regarding essential businesses can be found here:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-level/essential-businesses/> this list will evolve over time and was last updated at 8 pm, 24 March 2020. The current definition relating to the pipfruit industry at that time was:

<p>Primary industries, including food and beverage production and processing</p> <p>Lead agency: Ministry for Primary Industries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any entity involved in the packaging, production and processing of food and beverage products, whether for domestic consumption or export</li><li>• Any entity involved in relevant support services, such as food safety and verification, inspection or associated laboratory services, food safety and biosecurity functions</li><li>• Any entity providing veterinary services</li><li>• Any entity whose closure would jeopardise the maintenance of animal health or welfare standards (including the short-term survival of a species)</li></ul>
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### **Can fruit and vegetable shops remain open?**

A cabinet decision at 1pm on 25 March suggested fruit and vegetable shops would not be considered 'essential business'. However multiple industries have requested that this decision is reviewed to ease pressure on supermarkets. We will update this as soon as we have further information.

### **I am an 'essential business', can I continue to operate before I register with MPI?**

We understand you may continue to operate after 11.59pm Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March as long as you complete your registration with MPI by close of business **FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH**. It is expected that the protocol minimising the risk of spread of the virus detailed in the registration form will be effective immediately. Guidance information to assist your registration is available [here](#), this information is aimed at orchard and packhouse operations.

### **What protocols do I need to put in place to meet the 'essential service' requirements?**

All businesses will be required to register with MPI via an online registration system: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/covid-19-essential-primary-sector-service-registration/>

NZAPI has developed guidance to help you answer these questions available [here](#). However, you will need to choose what you are able to implement and be prepared to be checked by MPI.

The MPI registration website states that you are not required to complete this form if:

- There are five or fewer people (including the owner) working at each business site, and
- can achieve social distancing measures, including travelling, to and from work.

For registration you will need to provide your NZBN number which you can find on our registration database under your company details, or this link: <https://www.nzbn.govt.nz/>.

You will also be asked for your Food Act FCP/NP ID. This can be found on the MPI Food Act portal <http://mpiportal.force.com/publicregister>.

The questions for registration include:

1. Full name of operator
2. NZBN Number
3. Other Registration Type
  - ACVM Act GMP ID:
  - Animal Products Act RMP ID:
  - Biosecurity Services ID:
  - Fisheries Services ID (FishServe Client Number):
  - Food Act FCP/NP ID
  - Wine Act WSMP ID
  - Other – please specify type and ID:
4. Contact Person
5. Business sector (tick all that are applicable)
  - Horticulture (growers, packers)
6. How many workplaces / premises / facilities / operating locations are there?
7. What number of employees are at each premise / facility / operating location (show numbers by location)?
8. What number of employees do you already have working from home?
9. How do your production processes protect your workers and the public by reducing the potential spread of COVID-19?

New Zealand Apples and Pears Inc has exercised reasonable care, skill and judgment in providing this information to you. However, we do not give any warranty in relation to such information nor accept any liability (whether arising in contract, or in tort or otherwise) in respect of such information. You must exercise your own judgment as to whether or not to act on the information provided.

10. How are you ensuring that workers and others at work are observing social distancing to and from work, during work and during rest breaks?
11. What personal hygiene steps have you put in place for workers to reduce the likelihood of virus spread at work?
12. What existing, or additional personal protective equipment could you introduce that would reduce the likelihood of virus spread at work?
13. What steps are you taking to limit access to your workplaces apart from essential workers?
14. How are you isolating staff, or parts of your workplace, so that virus spread would be contained should it occur?
15. What arrangements have you put in place for staff to report any illness and remove themselves from work?
16. What arrangement have you put in place for staff to report any suspected exposure to COVID-19?
17. What actions would you take should a staff member be suspected of or confirmed as having COVID-19?
18. How do you ensure that staff at particular risk of COVID-19 identify themselves and are isolated from work?
19. How will you ensure that your workers observe 'stay at home' rules at the conclusion of each working day?

**Where can I access sanitiser? Are there provisions available that essential services are able to access?**

We're aware that it's very difficult to access sanitiser at the moment. The NZ Govt Covid –19 website provides guidance on washing hands, including advice on using soap: <https://covid19.govt.nz/how-were-uniting/wash-your-hands/>. There are also posters available for download under resources.

## Isolation

**What are the best protocols for getting RSEs to self-isolate outside of the workplace?**

Here are some suggested guidelines:

- Provision of food in the workplace.
- Signage and verbal reinforcement of requirements by supervisors and senior production workers multiple times throughout the day.

**What happens if one of my workers tests positive for COVID 19?**

Here are some suggested guidelines:

- Workers with suspected or confirmed COVID19 should be isolated from others they live with in an isolation room or separate accommodation site.
- Refer to a register/log of all contacts to the orchard, day, time and duration to traceback to any possible transmission on site.
- Stand down affected working group. Self-isolation at home for two weeks.
- Call Healthline 24/7 on 0800 358 5453

## Labour supply

Up to date information on RSE visas can be found at:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/recognised-seasonal-employers-rse-covid-19-information>

### Will my RSEs have their visa extended?

NZAPI are working to confirm with Immigration that visas for all temporary migrants currently in New Zealand that are due to expire between 2 April and 9 July 2020 will be extended until late September 2020.

More information can be found at: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/recognised-seasonal-employers-rse-covid-19-information>

### How does isolation within an RSE accommodation village work?

As much as possible, you should limit your contact with people other than the family members/companions you travelled with. You should avoid having visitors to your home, but it is okay for friends, family or delivery drivers to drop off food and supplies.

If you are in a home where the others who live with you haven't travelled or been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, you should minimise close contact with them by avoiding situations where you have face-to-face contact closer than 1 metre for more than 15 minutes. The other household residents do not need to self-isolate provided these precautions are followed.

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, pillows or other items with other people in your home. After using these items, you should wash them thoroughly with soap and water, place them in the dishwasher for cleaning or wash them in your washing machine.

More information can be found at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-self-isolation>

### Who pays if my RSE workers get sick?

RSE workers are eligible for the sick-leave scheme as part of the COVID-19 Economic Response Package announced on Wednesday 18 March. Employers are required to apply for the subsidy on behalf of workers.

All migrant workers, including RSE workers, are entitled to government funding if they fall sick or have to isolate themselves while working in New Zealand (from the start date of their contract). This equates to NZD \$585.50 per worker per week. However, workers will still need to pay for their food and accommodation during this time. The entitlement covers the 14 days for workers in isolation and for the entire period of sickness for workers who contract COVID-19.

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### **If I have a worker that has dependents that can't work can I get a wage subsidy?**

The Government has put together a COVID-19 Wage Subsidy for employers in all regions. It's to support your business if you are impacted by COVID and face laying off staff or reducing their hours because of COVID-19. You can find more information here: <https://workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/emergencies/2020/coronavirus.html#null>

### **What financial support is there if my orchard is impacted?**

Some businesses have been economically impacted by COVID-19, leading to down-sizing or closing their operations. We can provide support and advice if you need to consider redundancies or reducing people's hours. You can find more information here: <https://workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/emergencies/2020/coronavirus.html#null>

### **Are there posters containing basic information I can download to display around my workplace?**

The NZ government's dedicated COVID-19 website has posters available to download covering basic information, there is also a section of translated information. These can be found here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/resources-and-translation/resources/>

## **Wellbeing**

### **Where do I get support for those that are financially or emotionally stressed?**

Rural Support Trust: <http://www.rural-support.org.nz/>

Mental Health Foundation: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/covid-19/>

NZ Ministry of Health Advice: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-taking-care-your-mental-wellbeing>

- **1737** – Free call or text 1737 any time for support from a trained counsellor.
- **Lifeline** – 0800 543 354 or free text 4357 (HELP)
- **Youthline** – 0800 376 633 or free text 234
- **Samaritans** – 0800 726 666

Information on financial support can be found at: <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/financial-support/>