



**New Zealand
Apples & Pears®**
COVID-19 UPDATE

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update 6

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Please complete your MPI registration ASAP

MPI will be visiting packhouses and other horticultural operations across the country from tomorrow. These are deemed educational visits, to help the horticulture industry understand its obligations as an essential service and help with compliance to stop the spread of COVID-19, which is the Government’s chief objective. MPI is taking this approach to ensure that horticulture can continue to operate as an essential service and keep people safe, can plan ahead and operate with the future in mind, so our industry is able continue to supply domestic and export markets, now and over the coming months.

MPI has noted its appreciation that the horticulture sector has responded positively to the

Government's requirements under Level 4.

MPI officials will visit singularly, may phone ahead and will be from various MPI services. They will keep a 2m distance, are aware of biosecurity issues and the visits will be short. They will be able to answer questions verbally and can email information too.

MPI has also undertaken to improve the registration process. Once the process has been improved, those that have registered will receive confirmation and a registration number via email.

While registrations do not close until tomorrow (Friday) evening, **please make sure that you register at the earliest opportunity** – this is critical. If in doubt, register!

We appreciate that you are all busy, and that you and your teams are feeling the pressure.

For registration, please refer to the [guidance document](#).

In the meantime **PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR MPI REGISTRATION ASAP** - [click here to access the registration](#)

Work “bubbles”

On a call with MPI this evening, the topic of “work bubbles” came up. This is where businesses are creating bubbles within your own workplaces of small groups who live travel and work together. Some members of the public have already called authorities to express concern at vans heading to orchards and pack houses with large groups on board.

Remember, the Minister has made it clear that the decision of government to include horticulture as an essential sector is a privilege; to keep it we must demonstrate our commitment to do three things – look after the safety and wellbeing of all of our staff; ensure food security for our people and our customers around the world; and do our bit to stop the spread of the virus. The larger the group in the bubble the less we can be effective with the first and third requirement.

There is no hard and fast rule about the size of each bubble, but indications are that no more than 4 or 5 people in a van may be acceptable; 10, for example, would be a problem and may put our privilege at risk.

If you have any concerns please contact us. I appreciate that these are stressful times, and

that the requirements for registration are onerous on everyone. However, many food outlets or retail outlets have been forced to close; we are working hard to ensure this doesn't happen to our industry.

Alan Pollard

Using backpackers living off-site.

With backpackers returning home to their accommodation last night it has become very apparent that these accommodation centres are high-risk. Groups cannot mix from different worksites. As an employer and/or owner of the workplace you are responsible for the workers maintaining isolation procedures at their accommodation. If you cannot then you cannot allow them on the worksite.

Contact the accommodation providers. Backpacker accommodation owners understand the issues.

MBIE is the Ministry looking at this risk.

A couple of suggested solutions from the Backpacker Visitor Network Group is:

1. Have backpacker accommodation providers coordinate to have those from the same workplace living and travelling together, similar to how a RSE team would be housed, with strict policies on use of shared facilities (rosters, cleaning in between etc) and limits on who goes shopping or shopping done by the accommodation staff. And those who are not working at all staying in a different backpacker site again
2. Backpackers who are working being housed in motels to enable them to meet the self isolation requirements - there will not be enough for all but motels are currently quite empty.

Businesses please work on a solution.

If you have any questions contact gary@applesandpears.nz. 021 758 314

Assurance Programme Audits

The following audits have been delayed, please read the communication from the respective agencies:

- [BRC](#)
- [GlobalGAP](#)

For more information on NZGAP, please check out their [website](#)

Website Updates

Additions/ Changes to the Website:

- Addition of links for export contacts (Market Access, Transport Guidance and Napier Port) on [links page](#)
 - Link for RSE employers to MBIE [MBIE Page](#)
 - Link for MSD/ Work and Income information [Work and Income Page](#)
 - Updating Support services contact details on [links page](#)
 - Guidelines to registering as an essential business [updated](#) V2
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