

# AUCKLAND COUNCIL UPDATE | COVID-19 (coronavirus)

## Update #2| 24 March 2020

Auckland Council has a number of workstreams underway to respond to COVID-19 and ensure we can continue to provide essential services to Aucklanders.

**Public inquiries can be referred to the Auckland Council on 09 301 0101. Visit [OurAuckland.nz](https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/our-auckland) for the most up to date information.**

### Essential council services updated information

#### Waste services

- All Auckland Council's kerbside services – rubbish, recycling and food scraps – are continuing as usual at this time. Please continue to put your kerbside collections out on your usual days. Other council waste services are being assessed, and we will make sure people are aware of any changes as soon as possible.
- From 6pm on 25 March, the Waitākere Transfer Station will be closed to the general public and open only for licensed waste collectors providing essential services. Community recycling centres are also closed. Household on-property inorganics collections beginning 26 March onwards have been postponed for the lockdown period. Customers will be notified shortly to advise on rescheduling.

#### Regional Park bookings (accommodation, bookable sites and venues)

- Customers with bookings are being contacted directly and full refunds will be provided.

#### Regulatory Services

- Building inspections will only be carried out for essential service or business construction. Essential includes sites related to medical, ambulance, fire and police works to help combat COVID-19 or urgent 'make safe' work.

#### Playgrounds

- All playgrounds are closed.
- People can, and should, still use our parks for walks and exercise but stay off playgrounds and exercise equipment.
- We are working to put signage up and implement closures as quickly as possible – keeping in mind we have thousands of sites to address.

#### Auckland Transport update

Auckland Transport has released information today about arrangements for public transport and traffic services during the lockdown period. This is available on AT's [COVID-19 page](#).

- From 11.59pm on Wednesday, 25 March 2020 public transport services will only be available for those working in [essential services](#) for medical reasons, to access essential services including get to the supermarket, and to move essential goods.
- All public transport contracted by AT will be free from the morning of Thursday, 26 March.
- People will still be required to tag on and off using their AT HOP card and use the rear door to get on and off the bus.
- From early Thursday morning, trains, buses and ferries contracted by AT will run a reduced timetable, similar to the usual weekend service timetable. These timetables will be available on the [AT website](#) by the end of Tuesday, 24 March.

- Some key ferry services such as those to Waiheke and Devonport are not contracted or managed by AT and different arrangements may apply.
- Lighter traffic volumes are expected, and traffic signalling will be managed to give priority access to hospitals and other essential services.

All AT construction sites will be closed by 11.59pm on Wednesday, 25 March 2020. These sites will be made safe and secure by contractors and will be regularly monitored for health and safety.

Only work related to essential services, critical infrastructure and immediate and short-term safety issues (e.g. emergency maintenance work) will be undertaken by Auckland Transport until the alert level is reduced by the Government.

### **Auckland Council governance measures**

Auckland Council's Governing Body has [today unanimously approved](#) emergency measures to ensure effective governance of the city while it is in lockdown over the next four weeks.

The Governing Body also agreed to establish a COVID-19 contingency fund of \$22.5m for any urgent expenditure required to respond to COVID-19 or its impacts.

In summary, the following decisions have been made:

- Restrict physical attendance at meetings of the Governing Body, its committees and sub-committees to attendance by audio or audio-visual link. An Order in Council under the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006, which will make members attending remotely count towards a quorum, is before the Government.
- Establish immediately one committee made up of the whole Governing Body to assume the functions and power of all committees except for the Audit and Risk Committee.
- The terms of reference for this temporary Emergency Committee will include all able to participate by audio or audio-visual link with a quorum of two, chaired by the Mayor, with the Deputy Mayor as the committee deputy.
- Temporary Emergency Committee meetings will be held weekly.
- The IMSB may appoint two members to sit on the temporary Emergency Committee to vote on items that would have normally been decided by a committee where they were a member.

### **Government information**

The Government has released useful guidance on [welfare and mental wellbeing](#). This is a resource you are encouraged to use and share with your own organisations and communities.

### **General advice and information**

- The Ministry of Health is the lead agency and all official information will be shared via [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz). This website has plenty of advice and information, including downloadable and translated resources.