

AUCKLAND COUNCIL UPDATE | COVID-19 (coronavirus) Update #3| 25 March 2020

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

As a key stakeholder, we will share regular information with you so you are well informed. Please feel free to share the messages listed below with your organisations.

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

State of Emergency declared

Today the Government declared a nationwide state of national emergency under section 66 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002. This is to manage the spread of COVID-19 within New Zealand.

This step has been taken due to the unprecedented nature and scale of the pandemic which is beyond the capacity of local Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups to respond to on their own. This pandemic also requires a significant and coordinated response by and across central and local government.

We expect Civil Defence Emergency Management Act powers to be used where necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce its impact, for example:

- Powers of requisition to manage wider consequences e.g. providing for the conservation and supply of fuel and other essential supplies
- Closing roads
- Stopping people doing activities that may contribute to the emergency
- Excluding people from places
- Prohibiting or regulating traffic.

The Prime Minister has already signalled that breaches of measures put in place to respond to COVID-19 will not be tolerated. Declaring a state of national emergency helps to enable the enforcement of these measures.

An Emergency Mobile Alert was issued to all capable mobile phones between 6-7pm this evening

Visiting parks and open spaces

- You may go for a walk or exercise and enjoy nature but keep a two metre distance from people at all times.
- You can take your children outside.
- Police may be monitoring this and asking questions of people who were out and about during the lockdown to check what they were doing.

Following comments by Police Commissioner Mike Bush today that people should not drive to local beaches, we are seeking some clarification on use of parks and beaches and will communicate this to Aucklanders tomorrow via our channels.

At present, we have interpreted the government's advice (above) to mean that people can walk, run or cycle through their **local** parks but must not play on playgrounds, use exercise equipment or drive to parks or beaches outside of their local area. Two metre distances should be observed at all times.

Essential council services | updated information

As of 24 March 2020, Auckland's kerbside rubbish, recycling and food scraps collections are considered essential services and will continue as usual. This was reported incorrectly in today's media.

The following essential services will continue to be provided by Auckland Council:

- Stormwater infrastructure repair and maintenance and water treatment
- Waste collection and management services
- Auckland Emergency Management, including our current relief responses
- Cremation and burial services
- Animal welfare management (i.e. feeding and caring for animals in our care and short-term survival of species). All animal shelters will be closed to the public, however our people will continue to respond to priority calls like roaming dogs and dog attacks
- Community venues and facilities as required by other essential services
- Essential governance activities
- Reactive regulatory and compliance activities required to maintain human health and safety at home or work, and environmental health services
- Building and resource consenting necessary for essential services and critical infrastructure
- Hazard monitoring and resilience
- Biosecurity
- Critical maintenance services, including mowing of parks to ensure people can continue to use them for their mental and physical wellbeing during the lockdown, mowing in rural areas to maintain traffic safety and reduce fire risk, arboriculture services, and collection of street bins
- Removal of offensive graffiti

The supply chains and support required to run these services, such as our contact centre, will continue to operate. Please note that this list may be updated during the lockdown period.

Essential services provided by our council-controlled organisations includes:

- Waste water
- Drinking water
- Core public transport for essential service workers, medical reasons and to move essential goods

Waste Services

- As of 24 March 2020, Auckland's kerbside rubbish, recycling and food scraps collections are considered essential services and will continue as usual.
- From 6pm this evening the Great Barrier Island Claris Landfill, Waiheke Island Transfer Station and Wāitakere Transfer Station will be closed to the general public and open only for licensed waste collectors providing essential services.
- During the COVID-19 lockdown, council rubbish bags and bin tags can still be purchased from local supermarkets and selected convenience stores.
- Household on-property inorganics collections beginning 26 March onwards have been postponed for the lockdown period. We will contact customers that have already made a booking with a new collection day.
- There will be no household rubbish bin removals, exchanges or repairs done during the lockdown.
- Community Recycling Centres are closed for the COVID-19 lockdown period.

Rough sleeper community

- In normal circumstances, Auckland Council works closely with NGOs to provide outreach services across the Auckland region.
- In the lead up to this response and the current Alert Level 4, this responsibility has transitioned to Auckland Emergency Management to ensure Auckland's response is joined up with health agencies and other government departments. The same groups and council teams remain involved, providing support and coordination on the ground.
- The inter-agency group in Auckland is working together to get essential information to rough sleepers; confirm the use of public facilities for shelter, toilets and showers and for food preparation; and provide support for continued outreach services.

General advice and information The Ministry of Health is the lead agency and all official information will be shared via www.covid19.govt.nz. This website has plenty of advice and information, including downloadable and translated resources.