

AUCKLAND COUNCIL UPDATE | COVID-19 Update #10 | 1 April 2020

Auckland Council has a number of workstreams currently running 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 for the most up to date information.

Cemetery services update

In line with the [latest Ministry of Health guidelines](#) there are changes to some burial services.

- Family and whānau who have been in the same isolation bubble as a deceased person are permitted to go to the funeral home to view the body. However other family, whānau, friends or others in separate isolation bubbles cannot go to the funeral home for viewing.
- Family and whānau who have been in the same isolation bubble as the deceased may go to the cemetery or crematorium for the burial but they must have their own transport within their isolation bubble (i.e., nobody from another bubble can drive them or attend the burial).
- Until further notice, all gates will be closed to non-authorized vehicles at our main cemetery sites.
- Cemeteries remain open for exercise and recreation. Walkers and cyclists must maintain physical distancing guidelines.

This information has been updated on [OurAuckland](#) and the [Auckland Council website](#).

Recycling services

All mixed paper and cardboard recycling collected in Auckland will temporarily be sent to landfill because global COVID-19 restrictions have closed Auckland's overseas market for processing them. There is currently no capacity in New Zealand to process Auckland's volumes of paper and cardboard recyclables. A story explaining this has been [published on OurAuckland](#) today.

Despite the change, Auckland's kerbside recycling collection services will **continue as normal** and Aucklanders should continue to put their recycling bins out on the kerbside by 7am on their usual collection day.

Deferral of April 2020 Waste Minimisation Innovation Fund (WMIF)

The April 2020 round of [Waste Minimisation Innovation Fund](#) grants have been delayed due to the lockdown restrictions.

The next round of WMIF funding grants later in 2020 will be topped up with an additional \$25,000 for small grants, reflecting the total of the deferred April 2020 funding round.

Public transport services

Auckland Transport have provided the following messages to help with questions you may be getting around why public transport is continuing despite low patronage.

- There are people that rely on public transport for travel, such as those working in essential services (often shift workers) and those having to make essential journeys, such as to the supermarket or pharmacy.
- To support these trips, AT is continuing to operate services, on a reduced timetable. Details are available at <https://at.govt.nz/COVID-19>
- By providing regular services, passengers can spread journeys across the day, reducing the possibility of too many passengers on any given trip.

- As a result of COVID-19, the funding for running public transport in Auckland is currently being covered by central government, meaning there is no direct cost to ratepayers in operating services at this time.
- AT is constantly monitoring the patronage on all services that are operating.

AT Local

AT Local, the on-demand rideshare service in the lower Devonport peninsula area, has stopped operating until further notice. This action has been taken for the safety of customers and drivers, and to allow our public transport resources to be directed to essential services.

Easter Sunday trading

The government has announced that supermarkets will be closed on Good Friday but will be able to open on Easter Sunday. This decision has been made outside of the usual trading legislation and recognises the need to ensure people continue to have access to essential food, drink and household goods during the lockdown.

Business support

Yesterday's update had an incorrect link to the Employer & Manufacturer's Association (EMA) [COVID-19 support page](#). Apologies for any inconvenience this caused.

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.
- If you have concerns about a gathering of people, a non-essential shop or service that is open, anyone who is not self-isolating as required, or an event that breaches the criteria, you can report it to Police online at <https://www.police.govt.nz/105support>. Do not phone 105. Reports will be prioritised based on risk.
- The government has implemented a four-level COVID-19 alert system that specifies public health and social measures to be taken against COVID-19. We are currently at alert level FOUR.