

ALL NEW ZEALANDERS WELL-HOUSED



CHA Newsletter 20 April 2020

Welcome to the fortnightly newsletter of Community Housing Aotearoa *Nga Wharerau o Aotearoa*.

Included in this issue – the next step in the country's Covid-19 response, upcoming sector meetings, support for Māori housing providers, and a CHRA update.

One more week of lockdown and then we move to alert level 3

New Zealand is to remain in lockdown at the current alert level 4 until 11.59pm next Monday 27 April.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that the country will then move to alert level 3 for two weeks. Cabinet will decide on 11 May if the country will stay at that alert level or move further.

The Prime Minister advised that this week, still at alert level 4, provides an opportunity for businesses to prepare for the shift to alert level 3 next Tuesday.

Her media release announcing the Government's decision is [available here](#).

Her full address is [available here](#).

Media coverage includes:

- [Radio New Zealand](#)
- [Stuff website](#)
- [New Zealand Herald](#)

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What alert level 3 means

The major difference between alert levels 4 and 3 involves a shift between essential activity to safe activity.

Detailed information on level 3 is [available here](#).

The Government's updated chart of the different alert levels, including more detail at each level, is [available here](#).

HUD released updated [level 3 guidance](#) on April 20. CHA is now working to update our level 4 [guidance document](#) to assist providers to work safely at level 3.

Sector meetings this week

The implications of the Government's announcement to move to alert level 3 in a week's time will be discussed at upcoming sector meetings.

Providers are invited to the following online Zoom meetings:

- 2pm Tuesday 21 April: Operating at alert level 3
- 10am Thursday 23 April: Implications of the changes to tenancy law under Covid-19
- 2pm Friday 24 April: open discussion to share issues arising.

Please contact CHA Senior Programme Manager [David Zussman](#) or Deputy Chief Executive [Chris Glaude](#) for a Zoom link to the meeting.

The sector meetings are for community housing providers but you do not need to be a member of CHA to attend.

Other resources

The National Emergency Management Agency has produced a simple 'contact card' in both [A4](#) and [A5](#) versions. Agencies can print off and distribute (through welfare checks, grocery deliveries and other touch points) the cards to give harder to reach and non-digital audiences a simple source of information for phone based help and support.

Two Kāinga Ora resources you might find useful:

- [Income related rent support framework](#)
- [Managing anti-social behaviour during the Covid-19 alert level 4 & 3 response](#)
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CHRA update

The Community Housing Regulatory Authority has provided the following update:

Some CHPs have asked CHRA if they should be reporting Covid-19 cases to us.

If there are Covid-19 cases among your tenants we appreciate being informed (at a high level, with no tenants details included), but do not require you to keep us updated. We understand CHPs are providing operational updates to other parts of HUD as required and we would ask that you continue this. Generally, the response to Covid-19 is being led by the health sector, and CHPs are best placed to respond and gather information from appropriate sources without CHRA making any additional information requests or acting as an intermediary.

It will be important to examine the community housing sector's response to Covid-19 once the health crisis has been successfully managed, but while we are operating at high Alert Levels, such enquiries from us would not add sufficient value.

Once we move to less restrictive alert levels, we would prefer to work with CHA to see what lessons we can all learn and what else we need to do as a sector to better incorporate pandemic planning and responses into policies and future planning processes. Good record keeping is more important than ever and if sending us notifications now will assist in that process, then please do so, but we won't be formally requiring any information from you at present.

As always, Change and Disclosure reports are the best way to alert CHRA of any issues you feel may be relevant to your continued registration as a Class 1 Social Landlord.

Te Matapihi supporting Māori delivery of essential housing services

Te Matapihi has hosted its third online hui to support iwi Māori rōpū involved in the delivery of essential housing services, share key messages and good practice, and to identify issues requiring an urgent response from agencies.

The hui identified critical issues, including kaimahi safety and engagement, over-crowding, whānau and welfare checks, repairs and maintenance, emergency and transitional housing.

The full newsletter, including details of the next online hui, is [available here](#).

Sustaining tenancies update

You may have seen a GETS posting on 18 April for the Invitation to Partner for the Sustaining Tenancies Service Providers' Panel.

Please note that the extension to 24 April is still an interim measure. We expect a final date to be posted shortly.

Free webinar on outbound calling

A 30-minute webinar is being offered free of charge to community housing providers to support your efforts to keep in touch with people.

The webinar is being facilitated by Duncan Holland, Director at [TotalRisk](#), and he advises that it will be available free for the duration of the Covid-19 emergency.

The session outlines strategies for successful outbound calling and keeping yourself safe, particularly when working with uncertainty.

He is also available free of charge for personal safety advice.

The webinar can be booked by [emailing TotalRisk](#).

Invitation to participate: survey on green building design

A PhD student at the civil and natural resources engineering department within the University of Canterbury is seeking survey responses.

Fatma Abdelaal, who's also working at the New Zealand Green Building Council, is conducting a survey on green building design and assessment in New Zealand, and Building Information Modelling (BIM) and/or Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology practices in the industry.

She is keen to develop a clearer picture of current practices. She says the survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete and is anonymous, unless a participant is willing to be interviewed.

The survey, including Fatma Abdelaal's contact details, is [available here.](#)