

Table 1: The New Zealand Context.

Agencies	
Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ)	Government agency under the Ministry of Social Development that offers income support and provides training for job seekers and employers. https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/
City Mission	One of many charitable organisations that operates in major cities throughout New Zealand. Offers support to a wide range of people in hardship. Further information found at: https://www.aucklandcitymission.org.nz/
Food Banks	Range of services and charities in New Zealand provide free food parcels to whānau (extended family). Many services remained open to support their communities as essential services. This range of services can be seen at: https://www.foodbank.co.nz/
Benefits	
Working Age Benefits	Government benefits for people aged 18–64. The three major categories are Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support and the Supported Living Payment (for people with long-term health conditions/disabilities or their carers). In response to COVID-19, all Working Age Benefits were increased by NZ\$25 per week. https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/2020/benefit-fact-sheets/benefit-fact-sheets-snapshot-june-2020.pdf
Winter Energy Payment	From 1 May to 1 October WINZ provides additional weekly payments to beneficiaries to cover extra heating costs over the winter months, as many people on the benefit cannot afford to heat their homes. This was doubled in response to COVID-19 to NZ\$40.91 singles NZ\$63.64 for couples or people with dependents to acknowledge people would need to spend more on heating during lockdown. https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/winter-energy-payment.html
Hardship Assistance	Emergency and one-off payments from WINZ to help people in acute financial hardship. Covers payments such as Special Needs Grants and Recoverable Assistance Payments. https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/special-needs-grant.html https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/recoverable-assistance-payment-grant.html

Table 1: The New Zealand Context (continued).

Food Grants	Grant for people on low-income or a benefit who need help paying for food. Weekly rate is dependent on circumstance. https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/urgent-costs/food.html
Community Services Card	Allows people receiving low-income to have subsidised access to services such as GP appointments, medical scripts, pools and gyms. https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/community-services-card.html
Wage Subsidy	Available to New Zealand businesses that experienced a greater than 40% decline in revenue during a 30-day period due to COVID-19. In return the businesses were expected to keep their employees at 80% of their usual wage. This scheme was initially for a 12-week period but businesses were then able to apply for another 8-week extension. Individuals who had lost employment due to COVID-19 were also able to apply for income relief payments of up to NZ\$490 for up to 12 weeks. https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html
Timeline*	
28 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First case reported
14 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14-days self-isolation at border (except Pacific)
19 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border closed to all but returning New Zealanders • 100-people gathering limit
21 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four-level Alert Level System announced • New Zealand at Alert Level 2
23 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand at Alert Level 3
25 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand at Alert Level 4 • National State of Emergency declared
27 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand at Alert Level 3
13 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand at Alert Level 2
8 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand at Alert Level 1

Table 1: The New Zealand Context (continued).

Alert Level System at Time of First Lockdown*	
<p>Alert Level 4: Eliminate</p> <p>Sustained and intensive transmission</p> <p>Widespread outbreaks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People instructed to stay at home • Educational facilities closed • Businesses closed except for essential services (eg, supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics) and lifeline utilities • Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities • Travel severely limited • Major reprioritisation of healthcare services
<p>Alert Level 3: Restrict</p> <p>Community transmission occurring, or multiple clusters break out</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel in areas with clusters or community transmission limited • Affected educational facilities closed • Mass gatherings cancelled • Public venues closed (eg, libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, amusement parks) • Alternative ways of working required, and some non-essential businesses should close • Non-face-to-face primary care consultations • Non-acute (elective) services and procedures in hospitals deferred and healthcare staff reprioritised
<p>Alert Level 2: Reduce</p> <p>High risk of importing COVID-19, or uptick in imported cases, or uptick in household transmission, or single or isolated cluster outbreak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border entry measures maximised • Further restrictions on mass gatherings • Physical distancing on public transport (eg, leave the seat next to you empty if you can) • Limit non-essential travel around New Zealand • Employers start alternative ways of working if possible (eg, remote working, shift-based working, physical distancing within the workplace, staggering meal breaks, flexible leave arrangements) • Business continuity plans activated • High-risk people advised to remain at home (eg, those over 70 or those with other existing medical conditions)
<p>Alert Level 1: Prepare</p> <p>Heightened risk of importing COVID-19, or sporadic imported cases, or isolated household transmission associated with imported cases</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border entry measures to minimise risk of importing COVID-19 cases applied • Contact tracing • Stringent self-isolation and quarantine • Intensive testing for COVID-19 • Physical distancing encouraged • Mass gatherings over 500 cancelled • Stay home if you're sick and report flu-like symptoms • Wash and dry hands, cough into elbow and don't touch your face

*<https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/history-of-the-covid-19-alert-system/>