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<b>To</b>	Forum Directors, Presidents and Area Executives
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## WIDENING OF WAIKATO ALERT LEVEL 3 AREA

From what we understand of today's Ministerial press conferences from Parliament on COVID-19, there will be a widening of the Waikato area covered by Alert Level 3. Government has indicated the area will be extended to include the Waitomo district, Te Kuiti, Waipā and Ōtorohanga.

The new boundary will enter force at **11.59pm tonight** and remain in place **until at least Monday at 11.59pm**. It will be reviewed on Monday by Cabinet.

There are important impacts anticipated with these changes and we understand Waikato Alert Level 3 will not be treated the same as Auckland Level 3 and it will be more restrictive. Furthermore, Waikato Alert Level 3 will require the same testing regime as Auckland Alert Level 3 for workers crossing from Alert Level 3 to Alert Level 2 – therefore Waikato transport operators will need to implement driver testing and proof of a test within seven days of crossing the boundary, if you are not already doing this due to Auckland business.

Unfortunately, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has not yet published a map or formally confirmed these changes by amendment to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Order (No 12) Amendment Order (No 3) 2021 however, we trust this advance warning will help with your planning.

We will provide a further update when MoH formally confirms the changes however, in the meantime we recommend you frequently check in on the Waikato regional changes [here](#).

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