**Access to tertiary education sites**

This process relates to requests for access to tertiary education sites where this is not already covered by the general list of essential services:  <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/open-government-and-official-information/coronavirus-covid-19/essential-services/>

As we have previously indicated, essential services cover a number of functions provided by TEOs, including support services for students in residential accommodation.

Alert Level 4 for COVID-19 is the highest alert level possible. Its aim is to restrict movement around and in communities to the maximum extent possible. The reasons for people being able to leave their homes are limited to necessities of life – food, medical assistance, pharmacies and exercise in the local community. Strict conditions of physical distancing and appropriate hygiene have been imposed on these outings.

It is essential these boundaries are retained during the period of Alert Level 4 in order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Within this context access to education sites including Tertiary Education sites has been prohibited and breaches will be treated in the same way breaches of any of the conditions of Alert Level 4 will be treated. Police have been given powers to enforce the conditions of Alert Level 4 and will be active in excising these powers

**Conditions under which the Secretary for Education can provide approval for site access**

There are some situations where access may be granted. These fall under the following categories:

1. ***Securing the Site***

Security patrols are an essential service and are able to operate on school, early learning and tertiary sites. That means that security patrols can operate. It also means that security companies can monitor alarms including going on site to remedy problems. It also means that security companies that monitor education sites can respond when an alarm goes off.

Typically access to the premise is required and in this case approval may be needed for another person to enter the grounds. In some cases a tertiary education employee might be able to attend to the problem.

Where an alarm is not monitored by a security company and goes off, immediate approval can be provided for the alarm to be turned off. That can be done by phone but in cases where there are potential health and safety issues Police should be the first responder.

1. ***Access to IT servers and IT equipment critical to delivering distance education***

In most cases it will be a one person, one off attendance and should be at an exact time. Extended visits will generally not be approved. There must be no contact and as with the other examples physical distancing must be observed as must the hygiene rules.

1. ***Essential Contractors in the event of damage at a school***

Typically after an event, fire, break in, electrical fault there is likely to be some form of essential service operator, who needs to access the site. In these situations education personnel may be needed to provide access.

1. ***Removing fire hazards***

Most of these should have been attended to by now, especially as the drought is breaking in some parts of the country.

1. ***Use of education site for health purposes relating to COVID-19***

This is straight forward, if the Ministry of Health agrees so do we.

Approvals cannot be given for precautionary measures and cannot be for reasons that may be desirable but are not absolutely essential. That means requests for site cleaning, grounds and or pool maintenance will not be approved.

Animal welfare does not require approval to access an education site.