

To all members, stakeholders and teams.

As you will be aware from **11.59pm tonight (Wednesday 25/03/2020) New Zealand moves into alert level four to fight the spread of the coronavirus pandemic and the government have instructed anyone but those associated with essential services** to stay home for four weeks.

The historic decision to institute a nationwide shutdown identified some exceptions. Supermarkets, Banks, GPs, Pharmacies, Service stations, Couriers, Post Offices and other important frontline service providers would be classed as essential services. People can continue to use those services, though are encouraged to do so sparingly and maintain a distance of two metres between persons when doing so. Schools will be closed. Public transport and regional air travel will be restricted to those involved in essential services and freight, though there will be some flexibility for those striving to make it home. Domestic air travel is permitted in some cases for people to get home to self-isolate. Food, healthcare, energy, internet, waste collection and financial support will always be available but they must have health measures and contact tracing in place.

**Non-essential businesses must now close.** All bars, restaurants, cafes, gyms, cinemas, pools, museums, libraries, playgrounds, flooring retailers and suppliers and any other place where the public congregate must close their face to face function and takeaway services must move to close their operations.

Below is links to the official government site regarding essential services and the support packages available for those business that will be affected during this lockdown:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-level/#essential-businesses>

<https://workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/covid-19-support.html>

We can tell you quite clearly selling flooring or the laying of, is not classed as an essential service. As an industry we must all do our bit in this time of crisis and I am sure none of us want to be headline news because we thought this lockdown did not apply to us. The lockdown is designed to increase our nation's ability to fight and stamp out the COVID-19 virus. It is important that all of us play our part in respecting the lockdown if the disease is to be defeated. Together we can minimise the effect, stay safe, adhere to the government instructions and see you on the other side.



Warm Regards  
Nga mihi na

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