



# The Ministry for Primary Industries Register for Safe Practice

Essential businesses and services will continue to provide the necessities of life for everyone in New Zealand. This ensures food, medicine, healthcare, energy, fuel, waste-removal, internet and financial support will continue to be available.

## What are essential businesses and services as it relates to the primary industries?

For the primary industries, if your business falls under one or more of these categories, you are considered an “essential business” or “essential service”:

- Any entity involved in the packaging, production and processing of food and beverage products, whether for domestic consumption or export.
- Any entity involved in relevant support services, such as food safety and verification, inspection or associated laboratory services and biosecurity functions.
- Any entity providing veterinary services.
- Any entity whose closure would jeopardise the maintenance of animal health or welfare standards.

## Why do I have to register as an essential business/service?

MPI requires assurances from industries and businesses that processes protect workers and the public by reducing the potential spread of COVID-19. These assurances are a matter of public health. The transmission risk rises with the number of staff onsite.

## Who needs to register?

There are a couple of simple questions operators can ask themselves before registering:

1. Do you have five or fewer people (including the owner) working at each business site?
  2. Can you achieve social distancing measures between staff in your workplace, including travelling, to and from work? Production chains must achieve these limits of separation.
- If you answer **YES** to both of those questions, then you do not need to fill in the form.
  - If you answered **NO** to either of these questions, you **MUST** fill in the form.
  - If in doubt, fill in the form.

## How long will this register remain in place?

The register will remain in place until the National Alert Level has been lowered.

## How much will this cost?

There is no cost associated with this process. You simply need to fill out the form and submit back to MPI's online form.

## Can I continue to operate my business?

We are asking businesses to be registered by **5:00pm on Friday 27 March 2020**. They should keep operating and are expected to already have health procedures in place.

## What does “safe practice” mean?

Businesses must provide assurances that they are following government guidelines for maintaining social distancing between staff, which will protect workers and the public by limiting interactions and reducing the potential spread of COVID-19. Businesses must now also show additional measures such as providing appropriate PPE and following extra hygiene standards, to protect their staff as best they can against COVID-19 in the workplace.

## Who can I contact if I need more information?

Primary sector businesses can contact MPI at **0800 00 83 33** or **info@mpi.govt.nz** for further information on the register or registration process.

Find out more at  
**Covid19.govt.nz**