



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### COVID-19 Giving an Epidemic Notice and Epidemic Management Notices under the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006

Portfolio                      Health

On 23 March 2020, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that the Prime Minister has received advice from the Director-General of Health recommending she give an Epidemic Notice under section 5 of the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006;
- 2        **noted** that the Prime Minister may give an Epidemic Notice under section 5 of the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006 if she feels satisfied that the effects of COVID-19 are likely to disrupt or continue to disrupt essential governmental and business activity in New Zealand significantly;
- 3        **noted** that responding to the public health risks of COVID-19 at levels 1 and 2 of the national alert framework have had significant flow on implications outside of the health sector;
- 4        **noted** that the rationale for giving an Epidemic Notice is based on the significant disruptions that efforts to prepare for, and control the spread of, COVID-19 have caused to government and business activity;
- 5        **noted** that once an Epidemic Notice is given, Epidemic Management Notices may be issued;
- 6        **noted** that the Ministers of Immigration and Social Development are looking to issue an Epidemic Management Notice to manage the pressures the COVID-19 response is putting on their respective legislative frameworks;
- 7        **noted** that once an Epidemic Notice is given, modification Orders may also be issued under section 15 of the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006 through Orders in Council;
- 8        **noted** that the Minister of Local Government is proposing that a modification Order be made to enable local government to operate under the COVID-19 Alert Level 4;

- 9 **invited** the Minister of Local Government to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Council Office for the preparation of an appropriate Order and to submit it to the group of Ministers with Power to Act on COVID-19 for consideration.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister of Health  
Minister of Local Government

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