

Berry's Level 3 Lockdown



*The diary of a little bear in Auckland
August, 2020*

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Anonymous review: *“Touching. Cute. The ideal antidote to some of what’s circulating on FB.”*

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Chapter 1: Berry goes into lockdown





Hello. My name is Berry. I'm a toy bear who lives in a small apartment in Auckland.

We were just drifting off to sleep one night when my human's phone made a loud buzzing noise.

A message told us that Auckland needed to prepare for a Level 3 lockdown. We were so surprised.

I think we always thought it might happen again but not quite so soon.



‘Don’t worry, Berry,’ said my human. ‘We have masks and sanitiser. We did this before and can do this again.’



The next day we set about checking the supplies in the cupboard. Toilet paper ✓ Wipes ✓ Tissues ✓



Food that will keep for a while ✓



And tea for my human ✓

It felt strange on the first full day of lockdown to be doing this again.

I sat in the apartment window in case any children were walking past and needed cheering up.

It was very quiet. I hardly saw anyone.

I sat and listened to the birds, especially the tui that sings in the pohutukawa tree.

I felt calm. I know we'll get through this.





Later in the day, I helped my human make some washable masks. Big ones for her and little bear-sized ones for me.

Today is Friday. My human got a bit stressed with all her Zoom meetings.



You know you're in lockdown when the adult in your life lets you eat cornflakes for lunch and watch cartoons so they can get their work done.



On Saturday, I had a little sleep in but it was such a lovely day we had breakfast on our balcony.

My human made me a little sunhat and we spent most of the day outside reading.



My Aunty Rose and cousin Bobby love my sunhat. Let me tell you how you can make one.

Take the lid off a plastic pottle and cut a hole in the centre to fit a cap, like one from a milk bottle. Add a nice piece of ribbon and tie under your chin.

And I'm very proud of the mask I made, too. I might make some for other little bears.

Do you think I could be a social media influencer?





On Sunday, I felt a bit sad because I wouldn't be seeing my friends for a while.

'Don't be sad', said my human. She set up the computer and I was able to talk to my best friend, Panda. He is fine and we'll see each other again soon.





Part of our lockdown routine is to watch the one o'clock briefing. We have a new Minister of Health. He told us not to believe everything we read on Facebook and to be kind to people who catch the virus.



It's Monday, so my human is back to her meetings and I need to get on with my on-line learning. I have a little desk where I can do my reading and watch the on-learning channel on TV which starts today.



We need go to the supermarket to get our click-and-collect groceries or we'll be having cornflakes for lunch again. We have to remember to wear our masks, keep our distance and scan in with the Covid tracer app.



On Tuesday we heard that our friends were linked to the new cluster.

Somehow, it's different when you know someone who has been affected by the virus. You feel for them and worry about how it will change their lives.

Suddenly, it seems more real.

We have no symptoms but my human took my temperature just in case. We'll stay in isolation until we hear about our friends' results.

Well, that's my first week in
Lockdown 2.0.

When I look back, while it was a
surprise, we knew what to do
and we had to take it seriously.

It is important to have people
who care about you and to do
your best to make lockdown as
short as possible for everyone.

Kia kaha, Auckland.

Be safe, be kind, especially to
people who have the virus.

Love, Berry.



On August 12, 2020, the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern, put the city of Auckland into Level 3 lockdown after an outbreak of COVID-19 in the community. The rest of the country was placed into Level 2. The author was in Auckland at the time and luckily had a little bear for company who recorded their new lockdown experience.