



Kia ora koutou

This afternoon the Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins confirmed Cabinet’s decision to move the country to the Orange setting of the traffic light system at 11.59pm tonight, Wednesday 13 April. This removes many of the current restrictions, including the participation limits for indoor events. We are excited to be able to proceed with planning for our return to campus and the May graduation ceremonies.

### **Preparing for the return to campus**

Like many of you I have been making the transition back to my office on campus, in anticipation of [teaching and learning resuming on campus after the mid-semester break on 2 May](#). Although our campuses are still relatively quiet, each week there is a sense of growing energy and activity. It is a great experience catching up with colleagues in person again.

### **Face mask use on campus**

The University’s policy on face mask use in Orange reflects the Government position: you are not required to wear a face mask on campus (indoors or outdoors) except for areas that are separately mandated, such as pharmacies, health and disability services and retail outlets. However, you are encouraged to do so when physical distancing is difficult, for example in lifts and corridors. Members of our community who wish to wear a mask at any time are free to do so. More information on this is available on the [Mask use on Campus page on the website](#).

Finally, I would like to take a moment to wish you all a peaceful and relaxing long weekend.

Ngā mihi nui  
Dawn

**Professor Dawn Freshwater**  
Vice-Chancellor