



Kia ora koutou,

Yesterday the Prime Minister confirmed Cabinet's 'in principle' decision to move Auckland to Alert Level 3: Step 2 from 11.59pm next Tuesday, 9 November.

At Level 3: Step 2, retail premises and public facilities such as museums and libraries can reopen (although our libraries will be open only to the University community), as long as customers and visitors wear face masks and keep 2 metres apart; outdoor gatherings of up to 25 people can also go ahead. More information is [available on the Government's website here](#).

At these settings, the University's current Alert Level 3 arrangements will remain in place for our Auckland campuses. Only staff and students specifically authorised to access campus are allowed to do so. There are limited [study spaces](#) and computer labs available for individual study at selected campuses if your home environment is not suitable for study. More details about University operations at the different levels are available [here](#).

### **Covid-19 vaccination policy**

On Friday the University Executive Committee (UEC) confirmed the decision that from 4 January 2022 all students, staff and visitors will need to be fully vaccinated as a condition of being able to come onto our campuses or to take part in face-to-face University-managed activities. This decision will be reviewed in June 2022, or earlier if conditions or Government requirements warrant it.

Thank you to the many students and staff who made more than 250 submissions as part of the further consultation last week. We also had an excellent and productive discussion with the Student Consultative Group on Wednesday, and on Thursday more than 1,500 staff members joined the all-staff Zoom forum and shared their views in a brief anonymous survey.

This input has helped us understand much better the concerns and priorities of our wider University community, and what we need to focus on as we implement the policy over the next couple of months. Some of the issues raised are complex, particularly where one set of rights conflicts with another.

Ultimately, the University's decision to adopt this policy is based on the health, safety and well-being of our wider University community, which has been our priority throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. As restrictions are lifted, our preference is to return to on-campus teaching, learning and research as soon as possible, so that our students and staff benefit from the full on-campus experience.

It is clear from the Government's directions so far on the new 'traffic light' system that proof of vaccination will be a core requirement for a wide range of activities and freedoms. It is important therefore that the University has a clear policy that enables students and staff to make their decisions with clarity and confidence before we return to campus.

We have developed a set of FAQs based on the submissions and questions from staff and students, which is [available on the main website here](#). This is a working document that will be further expanded as information comes to hand and more decisions are made.

### **Spring graduation**

As it is unlikely Auckland will be able to host large in-person events by the end of this month, we

have made the decision to postpone the Spring graduation from the revised date of 30 November to early 2022, at a date to be determined. We will be contacting everyone enrolled to graduate to let them know the new arrangements.

Noho ora mai

Dawn

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