



Kia ora

Earlier today the Prime Minister announced that the country will move to the Red traffic light setting at 11.59pm tonight, Sunday 23 January. This follows confirmation that the Omicron variant is circulating in Auckland and possibly other regions.

We have been anticipating this news, and the University is well prepared to respond to the change in traffic light settings. At Red, most of our current on-campus activities continue unchanged. We maintain our commitment to providing a full campus experience, and this applies at all traffic light settings.

However, the speed of today's change means we do not have the expected 24 to 48 hours' notice for making this transition to Red, and it has fallen on the weekend, which is not ideal. **So, we have decided to pause all teaching tomorrow, Monday 24 January, to give staff the time and space to implement their Red setting plans for the delivery of teaching and learning from Tuesday 25 January.**

In particular, the requirements at Red for 1-metre distancing mean that almost all teaching activities on campus will be limited to 50 percent of normal room capacity. Each course will have determined how to manage this and will need to communicate these details to their students in advance of classes resuming on Tuesday 25 January. Students should check their course announcements on Canvas for this information.

### **Red setting requirements**

Our Red setting for teaching and learning, research and on-campus activities is set out at this [website](#), and I draw your attention in particular to the following arrangements:

- Teaching, service delivery to students and associated support activities will take place on campus, subject to vaccination requirements (see below).
- All examinations in 2022 will be online, remote, non-invigilated and open book by default, with some limited exceptions, regardless of the traffic light settings.
- On-campus research and fieldwork can occur where at least 1-metre distancing can be maintained, however remote research from home is encouraged where possible.
- Anyone coming onto campus must have a valid My Vaccine Pass and have uploaded it into the University's [Vaccination Declaration Portal](#).
- Face coverings are mandatory while indoors on campus, and capacity limits based on a minimum of 1-metre distancing must be maintained for all teaching, research, student service and administrative activities.

As we come to terms with Omicron in the community, a reminder that instructions on what to do if you are confirmed as a Covid-19 case, or identified as a close contact, are [available on the Government website](#).

Noho ora mai  
Dawn

**Professor Dawn Freshwater**  
Vice-Chancellor