



Kia ora

Whilst I am sure the weekend was not quite as anticipated, I hope you were able to enjoy some down-time. Please remember to pace yourself with your study, and to take breaks as and when you are able. It appears we will be in lockdown for a while yet.

This afternoon the Prime Minister confirmed Cabinet's decision to keep Auckland at Alert Level 4 until 11.59pm on Tuesday 31 August. The rest of the country will remain in Alert Level 4 until 11.59pm on Friday 27 August.

This means the University will remain in online mode until at least next Wednesday 1 September, and our campuses will remain closed except for the essential activities and services. You can find out more about our operations at different alert levels on our [website](#).

### **Clarification on locations of interest**

With the information on '[locations of interest](#)' continuing to develop rapidly, we have received some questions from staff and students that need clarification. Initially, it was reported that our student who tested positive had been on Level 4 of the Kate Edger Information Commons. Later the Ministry of Health identified Level 3 in its list of locations of interest. Both pieces of information are correct, however I know it has created confusion for people, which I want to address. The situation, as we understand it, is that the student was briefly on Level 4 but then went down to Level 3 (East Wing/Symonds Street Wing) where they stayed for about an hour. The official advice for anyone who was on Level 3 (East Wing/Symonds Street Wing) during that time (12.30-1.30pm on Monday 16 August) is to self-isolate and get a test. Anyone on other levels of Kate Edger at that time, including Level 4 and the West Wing of Level 3 KEIC), is asked only to self-monitor for symptoms.

### **Exams and invigilated tests**

A further clarification on yesterday's update around exams and invigilated tests. As per our communications earlier this year, tests will continue to be held online if we are at Alert Level 2 or higher. If we are at Alert Level 1, they will be held on campus. In addition, examinations in Semester Two, Quarter Three and Quarter Four will be held online, regardless of alert level. Exceptions will apply, particularly for courses requiring professional accreditation, and students in these courses will be informed in advance about the mode of their examinations.

### **Be aware of scams**

Once again, students in New Zealand, [this time at Lincoln University](#), have been alerted by text message that they had tested positive for Covid-19. This is a scam that NZ universities have faced before. Please be vigilant for any sign of it at the University of Auckland. The official position is that someone returning a positive test will be contacted by phone call only, never by text message. Text messages are however used for to confirm negative tests.

### **Staff acknowledgement and support**

I am aware that many people were working over the weekend in order to ensure that the University was able to support its community of staff, students and partners, and manage the

University's various responses to the fast-changing situation. I want to acknowledge and thank in particular the teams from Accommodation, the Student Contact Centre, Academic Services, the Associate Deans, Health Safety & Well-being and the Incident Management Team. It has also been inspiring to see the many staff members who volunteered over the weekend to make health and welfare checks on our students isolating in halls, including from our HR and Sport & Rec teams.

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Kia kaha

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Vice-Chancellor