



Kia ora koutou

The Prime Minister yesterday confirmed changes to the Government's Covid-19 response. This includes a decision by Cabinet to end the requirements for vaccine passes and vaccine mandates in most areas, including tertiary education. This will take effect from 11.59pm on Monday 4 April.

This change in approach has implications for the University's current [vaccination and testing requirements](#). We will be reviewing our Vaccination and Testing Policy in the coming days, and I will provide an update on decisions next week.

I can confirm however that our intention is to move away from requiring people to be vaccinated as a condition of being able to come onto our campuses, although it is likely to remain a requirement for some University activities, particularly for staff and students working in the health sector.

We expect to receive more detailed guidance from the Government and the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) shortly, and will share that information as it becomes available, including revising the [University operations under the COVID-19 Protection Framework](#) to reflect the new settings.

The decisions will be taken with respect to the health, safety and well-being of students and staff, which are paramount.

Return to campus settings

As you are aware, we have also been consulting and reviewing the decision around returning to campus post the mid semester break, focussed on balancing the health and safety of staff and students with creating a lively and dynamic campus experience and the need to revitalise the campus community.

Following consultation with faculties, and taking into account student feedback, the University Executive Committee (UEC) has made the decision that **all teaching and learning activities, except tests and exams, will return to in-person and on-campus delivery after the mid-semester break (from 2 May onwards)**, subject to any Government requirements in place at that time and with limited exceptions.

A summary of these settings, including for examinations and assessments, is [available on the main website](#).

We are also reviewing the settings for our research activities and will communicate this as soon as possible.

Ngā mihi nui
Dawn

Professor Dawn Freshwater
Vice-Chancellor