



Kia ora koutou

A slightly longer message today, with several items to cover as we prepare for the return to campus on Monday. It will be great to have a full on-campus experience once again, and we are very much looking forward to seeing you in person. [A busy schedule of events called \*Campus Calling\*](#) has been organised from 2 May to 6 May to welcome back our students and staff.

### **University Impact Rankings**

This morning the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings 2022 were announced, and I am pleased to confirm that the University of Auckland has been ranked 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the world, up from =9<sup>th</sup> last year. This is an outstanding achievement for the University, and it reaffirms our strong commitment to sustainability in its broadest sense. [You can read more about the result on our Sustainability pages.](#)

This success follows the news earlier this month that the University has also improved its performance in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Subject Rankings 2022, with [12 subjects now ranked in the Top 50 globally](#), compared to ten last year.

### **Face masks on campus**

Despite the more relaxed Government requirements at Orange, face masks continue to provide a simple, proven and effective way for us to protect ourselves and others from Covid-19, particularly those who are especially vulnerable to the virus. Wearing masks helps to keep us all safe. We have therefore revised the University's position on this matter. From today all staff, students and visitors are **expected to wear face masks on campus wherever physical distancing is difficult to maintain**, including lectures and other teaching spaces, bathrooms and lifts. More information is available on the [Mask use on Campus page](#), and on the [Teaching and Learning Settings from 2 May page](#).

A reminder also that face masks are required by Government mandate in some locations on campus, such as pharmacies, health and disability services and retail outlets.

### **Policy consultation**

Part of the University's commitment to the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff is our [Creating Cultures of Consent and Respect Action Plan](#), which builds on the University's work to protect our community from Harmful Sexual Behaviour. This has led to the development of two draft policies: the *Harmful Sexual Behaviours Policy*; and the policy and procedures covering *Personal relationships between staff members and students*. Consultation is now open on these two policies, as well as draft guidelines on *Support for staff experiencing harassment*, and students and staff are invited to respond with their thoughts and comments as part of a 4-week consultation period, ending at 5pm on Thursday 26 May. [You can read more about these papers and the consultation process on the website.](#)

### **Flu vaccinations**

As we approach the winter months I encourage all of you to get the flu vaccination, which is available on campus at the [Student Health and Counselling Service](#) for enrolled patients or [Campus Pharmacy \(UniChem\)](#) for all students, which are both located in Kate Edger Information Commons.

Ngā mihi nui

Dawn

**Professor Dawn Freshwater**

Vice-Chancellor