



Kia ora

This afternoon the Prime Minister confirmed that Auckland will move to Alert Level 3: Step 2 from 11.59pm tomorrow, Tuesday 9 November. This means that retail premises and public facilities such as museums and libraries can reopen as long as customers and visitors wear face masks and keep 2 metres apart. As I mentioned last week, this does not apply to the University's libraries, which will be open only to the University community. At Alert Level 3: Step 2, outdoor gatherings of up to 25 people can also go ahead.

More information is [available on the Government's website](#).

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 update**

Since announcing the University's vaccination policy last week, we have convened a special working group to oversee and manage the implementation of the policy and the University's transition to the Covid-19 Protection Framework (the 'traffic light' system). The **Implementation Task Force** will be co-chaired by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations) Adrienne Cleland and the Director of HR Andrew Phipps, and will report to the University Executive Committee (UEC). This will enable us to coordinate communications and Government guidance around emerging plans for 2022. We will provide regular updates to staff and students on the group's deliberations and decisions, and this will also be captured in the growing set of FAQs, which are [available on the main website](#).

We are expecting further guidance from the Government on their plans for vaccine certificates, and will update you as information becomes available. As the Prime Minister indicated today, it is likely Auckland will move to the new framework around the end of November. We will be working with the relevant Ministries and the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to understand what this means in detail for the University. In the meantime, and until we have more clarity, **please do not submit evidence of your vaccination status at this stage**.

Similarly, the Government has just published [its guidance on what will constitute a 'medical exemption' and who will be able to authorise it](#). As expected, the criteria are strict. We are currently assessing the implications for the University, and will provide more information shortly. Until then, **please do not submit to the University your claims for exemption, including letters from your GP or other medical practitioner**.

Noho ora mai  
Dawn

**Professor Dawn Freshwater**  
Vice-Chancellor

