Kia ora

This evening the Prime Minister announced that Auckland and the Coromandel Peninsula will go into **Alert Level 4 lockdown at 11.59pm tonight, Tuesday 17 August, for a period of seven days**. The rest of the country will be in Alert Level 4 for three days. This follows confirmation of a community case of Covid-19 in Auckland that is assumed to be the highly transmissible Delta variant.

For the University, it means we are moving to full closure of our Auckland campuses at midnight tonight. During the lockdown, only a very few essential services will be allowed to continue on campus. All students should study remotely until further notice - you will not be able to return to campus during the closure.

All teaching and learning is cancelled for tomorrow, Wednesday 18 August, and will move to online delivery on Thursday and Friday where possible, and for all of next week until the mid-Semester break begins on Friday 27 August. Please check Canvas regularly for updates from your teaching staff about the arrangements for your classes.

While this news was expected at some point, I know that many of you will be anxious about a Delta variant case in the community and our return to lockdown restrictions. But we are here to help. There is information available about studying during Covid on our website, and if you cannot find what you need, please get in touch with our Student Support Team.

We have done this before, and I know that our resilience and good sense will get us through it again.

Ngā mihi nui, Dawn

**Professor Dawn Freshwater**
Vice-Chancellor