

Kia ora

This afternoon the Prime Minister confirmed that Auckland and Northland will remain at Alert Level 4 until further notice, and that these settings will be reviewed by Cabinet next Monday, 30 August. The Prime Minister added that Auckland is likely to remain in Alert Level 4 for a further two weeks. The rest of the country will move to Alert Level 3 from 11.59pm on Tuesday 31 August.

This means all our campuses, including Tai Tokerau in Whangārei and the Leigh Marine Lab, will remain closed and in online mode except for the essential activities and services outlined in the [University Alert Level 4 Plan](#).

Once again, we are facing an extended lockdown, which I know will be particularly challenging for many of you. This added uncertainty, disruption and anxiety comes on the back of the extraordinary efforts everyone has made this year. As with my previous commitment, throughout the pandemic, we will make our best efforts to ensure that we share information as soon as we have it with the aim of minimising uncertainty where we can.

Please continue to look out for yourselves, your whānau and others, and if you feel you need help, see the range of support options available at the [personal support website](#).

### **Clarification on Science Centre (B303) contact tracing**

Further to my message yesterday about our staff member in the Department of Mathematics (Building 303) testing positive for Covid-19, we have learned that the Government's COVID Tracer app is sending alerts to people who scanned into other buildings in the Science Centre on Tuesday 17 August. This is because the Science Centre has a single QR code. To clarify, you are only considered a close contact if you were in the locations of interest identified in Building 303, not the other buildings in the Science Centre. To help you identify those locations of interest clearly, including the Levels 1 and 2 Podiums mentioned yesterday, we have highlighted them on [floor plans which are available on the website here](#).

If you have received an alert from the COVID Tracer app, or think you might have been in a location of interest on campus, and need some guidance on what to do, please leave a message at [coronavirus@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:coronavirus@auckland.ac.nz) and we will contact you.

Today I want to acknowledge all staff who this week managed to provide our students with a teaching and learning experience, in complex and difficult circumstances, and in a range of situations, including supporting our students through their assignments and tests. Thank you. Ka pai.

I wish you all a safe and hopefully a more peaceful weekend than the previous one.

Ngā mihi nui

**Professor Dawn Freshwater**  
Vice-Chancellor

