

Ata Mārie

I hope you are all remaining well as we head into week 4 of Alert Level 4.

On Monday the Prime Minister confirmed that Auckland will remain in Alert Level 4 until at least next Tuesday, 14 September. The rest of the country, including our Tai Tokerau campus in Whangārei, moved to [an enhanced version of Alert Level 2](#) at 11.59pm last night. These settings will be reviewed by Cabinet next Monday.

We are expecting revised Alert Level 2 guidelines for tertiary education organisations today, we will then update the University Alert Level 2 Plan accordingly. This will help us prepare for an eventual move down the alert levels in Auckland in coming weeks. In the meantime, and until the Alert Level 2 guidelines have been clarified, the Tai Tokerau campus has chosen to operate at Alert Level 3 for the remainder of this week, with all teaching and learning conducted online and all staff working from home apart from those authorised to be on campus.

### **Teaching and learning for the remainder of Semester Two**

While we are hoping for lowered alert levels in Auckland, the unpredictability of the Delta variant means there is still the possibility of further unexpected alert level changes. As in previous lockdowns, we know that a degree of certainty is far preferable to the disruptions caused by opening and closing our campuses at short notice. We have therefore made the decision **to remain in online teaching and learning mode for the rest of Semester Two, regardless of alert level.**

This will give our students and staff the ability to plan for the rest of the semester, particularly for the exam period starting at the end of October. As previously communicated, all examinations in Semester Two, Quarter Three and Quarter Four will be held online, apart from a small number of exceptions (subject to Government restrictions) for final year courses leading to professional registration.

If, as hoped, Auckland is able to move to Alert Level 2, or even Alert Level 1, during the rest of the semester, there will be opportunities for students and staff to come back onto campus, particularly to access study spaces and support services in the lead-up to exams. This of course will need to be done safely and in compliance with any Government requirements for physical distancing and group sizes.

We will provide more information on this as the official guidance is made available.

### **Pop-up vaccination centre on campus**

This morning we received Ministry of Health approval for a pop-up vaccination centre to be set up on our City Campus from Saturday 11 September to Tuesday 14 September. This is excellent news and will allow us to provide vaccinations to our 2,300 students and staff currently living in University halls of residence. Eligible students and staff will be invited to make a booking for their vaccination using a unique code. The centre will be in the Sir Owen G Glenn Building, and we have a workforce ready to go, including staff from FMHS and approved vaccinators from the Campus Pharmacy. This has been a complex operation to set up, and I want to thank in particular our teams from Health, Safety and Well-being and Campus Life for their work in making it happen.

Ngā mihi nui

**Professor Dawn Freshwater**  
Vice-Chancellor

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