



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

6 October 2020

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR COURTS OF NEW ZEALAND**

On 5 October 2020 the Government announced that Auckland would move to Alert Level 1 from 11.59 pm on Wednesday 7 October. The rest of New Zealand remains at Alert Level 1.

This statement explains the approach the courts will take in Auckland from 8 October 2020, and the arrangements that continue for the rest of the country.

#### **Auckland Courts**

The Courts will move to Alert Level 1 from Thursday 8 October. This will bring Auckland courts in line with the rest of the country. Alert Level 1 protocols will apply.

#### **Alert level 1**

##### *Arrangements for jurors*

Perspex screens will remain in the jury boxes in most courtrooms, as an additional precaution.

##### *General safety arrangements*

Members of the public will be able to attend court without permission of a judge.

Everyone attending court is strongly encouraged to track where they have been, using the QR code or a personal record.

Wearing a mask and practising physical distancing continues to be encouraged.

Enhanced cleaning regimes will be maintained, and soap, towels, sanitiser and personal protective equipment will continue to be readily available.

#### **Precautionary approach**

The Chief Justice says that throughout the pandemic the courts have taken a precautionary approach to ensure that those who must come to court can do so safely. At the same time, maintaining the operation of the courts has been critical to upholding the rule of law.

“It is a great tribute to everyone involved that the courts have remained COVID-free. Since March we have learnt more about the virus. Targeted measures such as wearing masks and physical distancing have enabled the courts to continue to operate safely at different alert levels.”

“In conjunction with the Ministry of Justice, we will continue to ensure that people can have confidence in these arrangements.”

Helen Winkelmann

**Chief Justice | Te Tumu Whakawā**

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