

South Auckland Courts

COVID-19 UPDATE – ALERT LEVEL 4 (Delta Variant)

Alert Level 4 Protocols

The Chief Justice has released a [Media Statement \(17 August 2021\)](#) regarding the interim court arrangements for today and tomorrow (Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 August) of the Level 4 lockdown.

Priority proceedings will go ahead – see [revised District Court Level 4 Protocol](#) (17 August 2021)

All non-priority proceedings scheduled for today and tomorrow will be administratively adjourned, including jury trials.

The Registry will be in contact with counsel and parties to provide rescheduled hearing dates for non-priority proceedings.

South Auckland Court Schedule

Court Schedule for Thursday 19 August		
Manukau	Matters	VMR
Courtroom 1	Papakura/Pukekohe Criminal (AVL) / Manukau Criminal (AVL)	Courtroom 1
Courtroom 2	Manukau Criminal (AVL)	Courtroom 2
Courtroom 4	Arrests / Manukau (AVL)	Courtroom 4
Courtroom 10	Youth Court (if required)	Courtroom 10
Courtroom 14	Manukau Sentencing (AVL)	Courtroom 14
Papakura		
See Manukau Courtroom 1 above		
Pukekohe		
See Manukau Courtroom 1 above		

*See VMR Guidelines for connection details

Criminal

All scheduled matters with defendants in custody will continue during Alert Level 4.

All South Auckland priority proceedings will be held at Manukau. Therefore, all Papakura and Pukekohe priority proceedings will be called from Manukau.

Defendants in custody will appear by AVL before a Judge, except for arrests where detainees will appear in person, if not symptomatic. The custody unit will be closely monitoring symptoms of all detainees.

For any defendant in custody scheduled to appear in person, the Registry will be working with the prisons to convert their appearance to AVL.

Family Violence

Under [the revised Alert Level 4 Protocol](#), priority proceedings include matters that fall into the category of 'personal safety and wellbeing'. Accordingly, parties/counsel may file a memorandum with the court by email if any non-custodial family violence matters, scheduled to be called during Alert Level 4, should be put before a judge. Please email the relevant court (see attached Contact List).

Jury Trials

Jury trials scheduled to continue this week are adjourned to a Callover at 9.00am, Thurs 26 August.

There were no jury trials at Manukau that had reached the stage of deliberation.

Bail Support Services

Manukau, Papakura and Pukekohe Bail Support Services will continue their support and services remotely (see attached email from the BSS team)

Youth Court

The Youth Court will only deal with priority proceedings under Alert Level 4 – see [revised District Court Level 4 Protocol](#) for Youth Court.

In any priority proceeding the Youth Court will operate, to the extent practicable, by way of AVL.

All non-priority proceedings scheduled for today and tomorrow will be administratively adjourned for two weeks from their scheduled hearing date.

Family Court

The Family Court will only deal with priority proceedings under Alert Level 4 – see [revised District Court Level 4 Protocol](#) for the Family Court.

More information will be provided in due course.

Civil

Priority civil proceedings have been identified for Alert Level 4 – see [revised District Court Level 4 Protocol](#) for Civil.

Papakura and Pukekohe Courts Closed

Papakura and Pukekohe Courts will be closed to the public. All scheduled priority Papakura and Pukekohe matters will be called from Manukau via AVL.

Limited access and attendance at Courts

All South Auckland priority proceedings will be held via AVL from the Manukau Court.

A Judge and Registrar will be in the courtroom.

All counsel, court participants and accredited media are strongly encouraged to participate by AVL.

Please ensure that when appearing via AVL, that your full name is displayed clearly and role – e.g. counsel, prosecutor, probation, media etc. This is to help identify those appearing.

Please see VMR guidelines (attached) on how to connect to a hearing. If you are unable to attend remotely, please apply in writing to the presiding judge via email for permission to attend in-person.

Where an in-person court hearing must take place, attendance in court will be strictly limited.

Public Counters Closed

All public counters, including the Manukau Customer Service Centre, will be closed during Level 4.

All documents are to be filed by email or by post. Dropboxes are not available.

Please note if you do not have a scanner, you may take photos of the documents and email it to the court.

Payment of fees in all proceedings can be made in the usual way via electronic filing and payment.

Parties can [File and Pay Online](#)

If a person needs to make an urgent without notice family application and are unable to lodge it online, please call **0800 COURTS (0800 268 787)** to arrange a time to come to the Court and file their application.

Masks, PPE and Additional Hygiene Measures

Masks **MUST** always be worn in all court areas of the courts, particularly indoors – unless permission is given by a Judge.

PPE and wipes are available on request at the security station at the court's front entrance.

Courts will continue to be cleaned to the higher Alert Level 4 standards.

Contact tracing is required to gain entry to the courts. We encourage everyone to scan the QR Code on entry.

Please make sure you check the [places of interest on the Ministry of Health website](#) and follow the instructions. Please follow all the [COVID guidelines](#) and keep yourself and others safe.

Remember that physical distancing is even more important because of the possibility of transmission.

South Auckland Managers – Contact List

Please find attached an updated contact list if you wish to get in urgent contact with any of the South Auckland managers