



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

19 October 2021

MEDIA STATEMENT

Northland court operations: Alert Level 2

Alert levels

The Government has announced that as of 11.59pm on Tuesday 19 October, Northland will move to Alert Level 2. The Auckland region and areas of Waikato remain in Alert Level 3. The rest of the country remains in Alert Level 2.

The guidance in this media statement will remain in place until a change is made to the alert levels.

Jury trials can commence in Northland on Wednesday 20 October

Jury trials in the Whangarei District Court may take place from Wednesday 20 October. In line with the District Court [Alert Level 2 protocol](#), the presiding judge will decide on a case-by-case basis whether a trial can proceed taking into account the individual circumstances of the case. Jurors are asked to ring 0800 COURTS or check the [Ministry of Justice website](#) for instructions.

There are no jury trials scheduled for Kaikohe District Court for this week.

Any juror who is feeling unwell or is unsure if they still need to attend court as a juror, is asked to contact 0800 COURTS or check the [Ministry of Justice website](#) for further information.

Travel for court hearings across alert level boundaries

The Chief Justice has issued [information for court participants on cross-alert level boundary travel](#). The guidance explains what a judge must take into consideration before allowing cross-boundary travel to attend a court hearing, the conditions that people must comply with, and health and safety arrangements in place in the courts to minimise risk.

Anyone who thinks they may need to travel across an alert level boundary to attend court should raise the issue with the presiding judge, or phone 0800 COURTS.

Keeping courthouses safe

The Ministry of Justice is following Ministry of Health guidelines to protect the health and safety of all court participants and staff. Measures are in place to allow jury trials to proceed safely at Alert Level 2 with appropriate physical distancing in the court and jury retiring room.

Any jury trials that cannot safely be accommodated at Alert Level 2 will be adjourned or stood down. This decision is made by the local court and court staff will contact participants, including jurors, in these instances.

Masks are to be worn at all times within the courthouse, unless an approved exemption is provided, or permission has been given by a Judge. Contact tracing measures are in place.

Further information can be found at [Ministry of Justice COVID-19 information](#).

Media attendance at court at Alert Level 2

Accredited news media will have entry to court at Alert Level 2 in order to report court proceedings, and to ensure continued open and transparent justice.

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APPENDIX: COURT PROTOCOLS AND COURT LISTS BY COURT

Trial courts

High Court | Te Kōti Matua

[Daily list](#)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

District Court | Te Kōti ā Rohe

Upcoming cases: ring 0800 COURTS (0800 268 787)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Appellate courts

Supreme Court | Te Kōti Mana Nui

[Daily list](#)

[Upcoming cases](#)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Court of Appeal | Te Kōti Pira

[Daily list](#)

[Upcoming cases](#)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Summary Appeal Court | Te Kōti Whakawā Pira Whakaraupapa Kaimahi o Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Māori Appellate Court | Te Kooti Pira Māori

[Alert level operating protocol](#) (Māori Land Court | Te Kooti Whenua Māori protocol)

Specialist courts

Coroners Court | Te Kōti Kaitirotiro Matewhawhati

[Upcoming cases](#)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Court Martial | Te Kōti Whakawā Kaimahi o Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Employment Court | Te Kōti Take Mahi

[Upcoming cases](#)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Environment Court | Te Kōti Taiao

[Upcoming cases](#)

[Alert level operating protocol](#)

Māori Land Court | Te Kooti Whenua Māori

[Alert level operating protocol](#)