



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

11 November 2021

## MEDIA STATEMENT

# Court operations: Jury trials update, and Kaitaia District Court back to Alert Level 2

### Alert levels update

As of 11.59pm on Thursday 11 November 2021, all of Northland will be in Alert Level 2.

The Auckland region moved to Alert Level 3, step 2 at 11.59pm Tuesday 9 November. Areas of Waikato remain in Alert Level 3, step 2.

The rest of the country remains in Alert Level 2.

### District Court jury trials in Auckland and Hamilton suspended for the rest of the year

The Chief Justice announced today that jury trials will not go ahead in December 2021 in the following courts:

- Auckland District Court,
- Manukau District Court and
- Hamilton District Court.

This decision was made to give some certainty to defendants, witnesses, other court participants, jurors and the legal profession.

The Chief Justice has already announced the suspension of jury trials in these courts for November.

### High Court jury trials in Auckland and Hamilton

The Chief Justice has already announced the suspension of **Auckland High Court** jury trials for November. There are no High Court jury trials scheduled to begin in December 2021.

Two jury trials scheduled in the **Hamilton High Court** for the weeks beginning 22 November and 29 November may still go ahead.

## What this means for jurors

- **Auckland:** If you have been summoned for jury service in Auckland for **November or December**, you do not need to report for jury service. You do not need to ring up to confirm this.
- **Hamilton in November:** Jurors summoned for jury service in Hamilton for the week beginning 15 November do not need to report for jury service. You do not need to ring up to confirm this.  
Jurors summoned for jury service in Hamilton in the weeks of 22 November and 29 November may be required to report for jury service. Follow the [Hamilton Court jury service](#) webpage for updates, or ring 0800 COURTS (0800 268 7870).
- **Hamilton in December:** If you have been summoned for jury service in Hamilton from **6 December**, you do not need to report for jury service. You do not need to ring up to confirm this.

## Kaitaia District Court operating at Alert Level 2 from Friday 12 November

Kaitaia District Court will join all other courts in Northland operating at Alert Level 2 on Friday 12 November.

At Alert Level 2, for physical distancing purposes, entry to the courts is restricted to those people who are required to be in court. Members of the public (including a whānau support person or persons for a defendant) whose presence is not required at court will not be permitted to enter unless they are given permission from the presiding judge.

See the District Court's [Alert Level 2](#) protocol for more information.

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](#).

## How to get information: 0800 COURTS helpline

The Courts have a dedicated phone line for anyone requiring information about an upcoming court hearing. 0800 COURTS (0800 268 7870) operates from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

**Contact:** Liz Kennedy, Senior Judicial Communications Advisor

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