The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

12 March 2021

MEDIA STATEMENT

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COURTS OF NEW ZEALAND AT COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 1

On 12 March 2021 the Government announced that Auckland would move to COVID-19 Alert Level 1 from mid-day Friday 12 March. The rest of New Zealand remains at Alert Level 1.

This statement explains the approach the courts will take in Auckland from 13 March, and the arrangements that continue for the rest of the country.

AUCKLAND COURTS

All courts will move to COVID-19 Alert Level 1 from Saturday 13 March. This will bring Auckland courts in line with the rest of the country. COVID-19 Alert Level 1 protocols will apply.

COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 1

The COVID-19 Alert Level protocols for each court are published on the Courts of New Zealand website.

Public access to Courts

Restrictions on public attendance at court hearings that were in place under the heightened alert levels no longer apply.

General safety arrangements

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

Helen Winkelmann

Chief Justice | Te Tumu Whakawā

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The COVID-19 Protocols for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, High Court, District Court – including Family Court and Youth Court, Employment Court, Māori Land Court, Waitangi Tribunal, Environment Court, Coroners Court and the Court Martial and Summary Appeal Court - can be found on the Courts of New Zealand website.

The Ministry of Justice website has information about the measures it is taking to ensure health and safety in courthouses.