



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

10 October 2021

MEDIA STATEMENT

Operation of the Courts at Higher Alert Levels

The Government announced on Friday 8 October that Northland would move to Alert Level 3 from 11.59pm that evening. These restrictions will remain in place until 11.59pm on Tuesday 12 October.

On 7 October the Government extended the Waikato Alert Level 3 boundary and announced that these restrictions would remain in place until 11.59pm on Monday 11 October.

Auckland remains at Alert Level 3 and the air and road boundaries between Auckland and the rest of New Zealand remain in place.

Cabinet is next reviewing the alert levels on Monday 11 October. Further guidance on court arrangements will be issued following the Prime Minister's announcement.

AUCKLAND JURY TRIALS SUSPENDED FOR REST OF OCTOBER

The Chief Justice has announced that, in order to provide some certainty to jurors, court participants, and the profession, no jury trials will be held for the month of October in Auckland.

Jury trials cannot be held during Alert Level 3, according to the [operating protocols](#) for the District Court and High Court.

Jurors who are summoned to attend court in Manukau District Court, Auckland District Court and the Auckland High Court during October are excused from attending.

NORTHLAND AND WAIKATO OPERATING UNDER ALERT LEVEL 3 PROTOCOLS

All courts in Northland and Waikato are operating to their Alert Level 3 protocols while those areas remain at Alert Level 3. Courts will operate to the extent they can by remote means as local conditions and capacity allow.

JURY TRIALS IN NORTHLAND AND WAIKATO FOR WEEK STARTING 11 OCTOBER

While all or part of the Northland and Waikato regions are at Alert Level 3, no new jury trials will commence in that region.

If Northland or Waikato moves to Alert Level 2 during the week of 11 October, jury trials would be permitted under the Courts' Alert Level 2 protocols. However, judges will decide on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the individual circumstances of the case,

whether the jury trial should proceed this week. Court staff will contact participants, including jurors, in these instances.

TRAVEL FOR COURT HEARINGS ACROSS ALERT LEVEL 3 BOUNDARY

The Chief Justice has reiterated that hearings which necessitate travel across the Alert Level 3 boundary will only proceed if it is determined by the presiding judge that it is in the public interest to do so.

Any counsel or person who believes they need to travel across the boundary for court purposes should seek the direction of the presiding judge.

Travel will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the presiding judge.

The Ministry of Justice will provide detailed advice on the health and safety arrangements for those who are required to cross alert level boundaries to attend court.

MEDIA ATTENDANCE AT COURT AT ALERT LEVEL 3

In the interests of health and safety, media are asked not to attend court in person during Alert Level 3 and instead to attend by remote viewing. See the Courts of New Zealand website for information on how to arrange this. If remote viewing is not available, please contact the registry concerned.

COURT OPERATING PROTOCOLS AND COURT LISTS

Operating protocols for all courts are available on the Courts of New Zealand website (see the appendix to this media statement for direct links). The appendix also provides links to each court's regularly updated court lists

Contact: Liz Kennedy, Senior Judicial Communications Advisor

liz.kennedy@courts.govt.nz | 027 369 6701

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](#)