



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

3 September 2021

MEDIA STATEMENT

Northland at Alert Level 3, Auckland at Alert Level 4: Arrangements for courts

Alert levels

The Government announced yesterday that Northland would join the rest of the country – with the exception of Auckland – at Alert Level 3 at 11.59pm on Thursday 2 September. The Auckland region remains at Alert Level 4 until at least Monday 13 September.

Cabinet is next reviewing alert levels for areas south of the Auckland boundary on Monday 6 September. Further guidance on court arrangements will be issued following any changes to the alert levels.

No one should cross the Alert Level 4 border to attend court

The Chief Justice confirms that defendants (including those in custody), prosecutors, counsel and witnesses are not required and not expected to travel out of or into Auckland to attend an in-person hearing while Auckland remains at a higher alert level than the rest of the country.

If this affects you and you have any concerns, please phone 0800 COURTS.

Jury trials

In the interests of health and safety, no **new** jury trials will begin during Alert Level 3 or 4 in the District Court or the High Court.

Jurors who are summoned to attend court on a date when the court is at either Alert Level 3 or 4 are excused from attending. Jury trials that were underway before the lockdown remain adjourned and trial judges will consult and make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

It is anticipated that jury trials will begin again at Alert Level 2. Further guidance about jury trials will be issued promptly following any Government announcement on a move to Alert Level 2. Guidance will include details of the health and safety measures courts will be adopting to ensure jury trials are conducted safely.

Media attendance at court

In the interests of health and safety, media are asked not to attend court in person during Alert Levels 3 and 4 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.

Further advice for media on attending court in person at Alert Level 2 will be issued promptly after any Government announcement about a move down in alert levels.

Arrangements for all courts under Alert Levels 3 and 4

Operating protocols for all courts under Alert Levels 3 and 4 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.

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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](#)