



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

4 November 2021

MEDIA STATEMENT

Court operations update: Waikato jury trials, Kaitaia District Court at Alert Level 3

Jury trials in Waikato for November

Waikato is currently at Alert Level 3, step 2. This position will be reviewed on Monday 8 November.

The Chief Justice announced today that no jury trials will be held in the **Hamilton District Court** in November 2021. This decision takes account of the number of trials scheduled in that period, and the need to provide certainty to court participants and the profession.

The **Hamilton High Court** has two jury trials scheduled to commence in November – the first on 22 November, the second on 29 November. These jury trials will commence as scheduled if the restrictions in place at the time allow.

Instructions to jurors summoned to the Hamilton High and District Courts

Jurors summoned to attend the Hamilton High Court and District Court in the weeks beginning **8 November** and **15 November** are **excused** from attending.

Jurors summoned in Hamilton for the week beginning **22 November** may still be **required**. Further guidance will be provided on the [Courts of NZ website](#) and on the [Hamilton jury service](#) webpage closer to the time.

Auckland High Court and District Court jury trials suspended for November

We confirm the Chief Justice's announcement last week that all jury trials in Auckland are suspended for the month of November. Jurors summoned to attend court in the Auckland High Court, Auckland District Court and Manukau District Court during November are therefore excused from attending.

Kaitaia District Court operating under Alert Level 3 protocol

Following the move to Alert Level 3 for the northern area of Northland on 2 November, the Kaitaia District Court is now operating according to its [protocol for Alert Level 3](#). This guidance remains in place while the area is in Alert Level 3.

Access to courthouses is limited during Alert Level 3. To the extent possible, all hearings are conducted remotely.

Counsel are expected to attend remotely, if at all practicable. The registry will facilitate remote access. Appearances in person should only happen in exceptional circumstances.

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 granted permission by the presiding judge.

Masks are to be worn at all times within the courthouse, unless permission is given by a judge.

Public counters are closed at Alert Level 3, and all documents can be filed by email to the Registrar. Contact 0800 COURTS (0800 268 787) or the registry for further information.

Important Reminder: Cross-alert level boundary travel

People are not expected to cross any Alert Level 3 boundary to attend court. This means that defendants, prosecutors, counsel and witnesses are not required and not expected to travel through an alert level boundary to attend a hearing in person. If the need to do so is identified, the issue should be raised with the presiding judge. If this affects you, contact 0800 COURTS.

For more information see the courts' [Cross-alert level boundary information for participants](#) for more information.

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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](#)