

Employment Court: COVID-19 Update

Chief Judge Christina Inglis

31 August 2020

As at 11.59 pm on 30 August 2020 the Auckland Region (Auckland Council area) moved to Alert Level 2 (with some additional restrictions as to gatherings). The rest of New Zealand remains at Alert Level 2.

The Level 2 protocol dated 13 May 2020 has been revised (as at 31 August 2020) and will now apply for matters arising throughout New Zealand, with any necessary modifications. [Revised protocol dated 31 August 2020](#)

It should be noted that the revised protocol incorporates a new policy for face masks in court. In summary, all those attending courts in the Auckland region should wear face masks in public spaces and courtrooms. A Judge may ask participants to remove masks when speaking. Attendees will be offered a face mask if they do not already have one. The wearing of face masks is encouraged in courts elsewhere in New Zealand. [Media statement masks in court from Monday 31 August 2020](#)

The Employment Court continues to process all new and existing proceedings. It remains open to hear matters, as appropriate.

All new matters continue to be referred to a Judge and are prioritised in the usual way. Parties are reminded of the ability to apply for urgency under cl 21 of sch 3 to the Employment Relations Act 2000. Any application should be supported by a full explanation as to why urgency is sought.

Note that filing fees remain payable during this period.

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