

**From:** [Vice-Chancellor's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Transition to the new traffic light system  
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Kia ora koutou katoa

The Government has confirmed that New Zealand will transition into the new COVID-19 Protection Framework (traffic light system) on Friday, 3 December 2021. The South Island is among the regions moving to Orange level, while Auckland and a number of regions in the North Island will move into Red.

### [Transition to the traffic light system](#)

Replacing the Alert Level framework, the traffic light system signals the next phase of the Government's response to managing the pandemic. The new system is intended to allow for greater movement for fully vaccinated people and for organisations to open and operate with less disruption while minimising virus transmission. A summary of the [COVID-19 Protection Framework can be found here](#).

### [What 'Orange' means for campus activities](#)

The University follows the Ministry of Education's guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations on operating under the COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF). We expect these guidelines will be updated over the coming weeks, and as more detailed information is made available, we will share it as soon as practicable.

In the meantime, in transitioning to the new traffic light system, the following COVID-19 Orange measures will be effective on campus from **11.59 pm on Thursday, 2 December**.

- Campus is open at Orange, and the existing requirements of wearing a mask as you move about campus, physical distancing, scanning QR codes and practising good hygiene continue.
- Under the new framework, for campus retail and hospitality outlets (including our recreational facility) to remain open, proof of vaccination will be required upon entry. Staff, students, visitors, contractors and tenants visiting any of the places listed below will need a My Vaccination Pass to enter. The vaccine pass will be verified on entry at each location using the [NZ verifier app](#).
  - Te Kete Ika, Mrs O's
  - Whare Hakinakina LU Gym
  - The Bookshop
  - The Canon Print Shop
  - Grounded café – although this is closed for now, and will only reopen at the end of January 2022
- COVID-19 vaccinations are mandatory for staff working in hospitality, events, close-contact businesses and gyms, [amongst other sectors](#). HR is working closely with managers in these areas on campus to ensure compliance
- All on-campus events including gatherings, seminars and conferences etc. will require My Vaccine Passes for entry

- My Vaccination Passes will not be needed to access the Student Health Centre and the Wellbeing Team, as they are classified as essential services.

#### [Download the My Vaccine Pass](#)

If you haven't done so already, you are encouraged to download your [My Vaccine Pass](#) from the official Government website. If you are unable to get the COVID-19 vaccine for medical reasons, there is an exemption process to get your [My Vaccine Pass](#).

#### [COVID-19 travel risks associated with the pandemic](#)

The Government has also indicated a three-step plan to reopen the borders from January 2022. Given the travel risk associated with the pandemic, Lincoln University staff members should take care when planning any overseas travel whether in a personal or a university business capacity.

If you intend to travel internationally, let your manager and your HR Business Partner know what your plans are so that a case-by-case contingency plan can be considered upfront in the event you do get stuck in lockdown, quarantine or self-isolation. If you are required to self-isolate, depending on your role and nature of your travel, you will be able to either work from home or apply for leave under the category COVID-19 Leave on MYHR. However, if you do choose to travel against NZ Government advice, your self-isolation on your return may need to be taken as annual leave.

#### [Consultation on the University's COVID-19 vaccination requirement on campus](#)

Having recently completed a comprehensive COVID-19 risk assessment, the University is still in the process of working through consultation on the proposed vaccination requirement. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share their feedback on the proposal so far. Your participation is vitally important in enabling us to make the most qualified and appropriate decision for our entire Lincoln whanau. [If you have not already shared your feedback, we encourage you to take a few minutes to do so now.](#)

Consultation is open until 5 pm on Monday 6 December 2021, and a decision and next steps will be communicated to all staff and students before 21 December 2021.

We will continue to keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Nga mihi  
Professor Bruce A McKenzie  
Acting Vice-Chancellor

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