



GRACE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

The knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness

Information Update Regarding Covid-19 Health Restrictions and Vaccination Mandates

21 October 2021

Greetings,

'For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.' (Romans 8:18)

We are all now aware of the impact of the Covid-19 (SARS-Cov-2) virus has had on our lives. Those of us in Auckland have almost become accustomed to the restrictions imposed on us. However, in the greater scheme of God's redemption, we understand that these are 'light and momentary afflictions' which we bear alongside our fellow citizens.

The trustees of GTC want to assure our staff and students that we are working to support the Ministry of Health guidelines to stop the spread of the virus and protect the vulnerable in our communities.

Currently, all our classes take place by video call. Peter Reynolds and Geoff Macpherson teach from the classroom at Rogers Road. Rob Allan comes into to maintain the administrative needs of the college and Geoff is in his office most Mondays and Fridays. Students who need access to library materials are invited to email the librarian for contactless pickup and drop off.

God willing, as restrictions are eased in Auckland, we will be able to welcome staff and students who feel comfortable back into the classroom. The application of requirements around scanning or signing in, and recommendations for the use of masks and handwashing will be in line with whatever the current Ministry of Health standards require.

While at this stage there are no requirements on tertiary providers to restrict face-to-face contact to fully vaccinated staff, we are mindful that this may be of concern to staff and students. Whereas we are supportive of the efforts of the health system to control the pandemic and believe that vaccination does provide heightened protection against Covid, we will need to respond to any such restrictions if they arise and according to the specific details.

Note: Those enrolled in Christ College units will need to ensure that they comply with the ACT regulations around health and safety.

In the meantime, we want to encourage our student, faculty, and staff to pray for the spread of the gospel under these trying circumstances. While we are uncertain as to what 2022 will bring, we do look forward to serving you all according to the principles outlined above. Keep your eyes on his glory.'

Sincerely,

Alex Robinson

Chairman