

29 April, 2022

Term 2 COVID Update



Welcome back to Term 2, 2022. I can feel the excitement building in anticipation of students returning to school.

As you no doubt are all well aware, we are starting Term 2 in COVID level ORANGE.

This was made on public health advice and reflects that we are moving past the peak of cases and our health system is able to cope. We are seeing that cases are declining due to high levels of vaccination and natural immunity after infection.

I wanted to give you an update on what the move to Orange means for our school.

We will continue to keep all the other health measures in place at school that we know slow the spread of COVID-19. These include ensuring our indoor spaces are well-ventilated, maintaining good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette, appropriate physical distancing whenever we can.

Two of the most important ways of maintaining our school community health are;

- Staying home if we are sick, and
- Mask use

If your child is sick or has any symptoms please keep them at home - Last term we found that symptoms came on fast with children at school. Sore tummies, headaches, temperatures, just a bit off were all symptoms. With winter coming on and two years of less bugs, **we will be sending students home who present as unwell at school.**

Mask Use:

Is STRONGLY recommended. We understand that everyone has a personal view. Public health advice is that masks continue to be strongly encouraged when indoors. Wearing a mask is a key health measure that slows the spread of COVID-19 in indoor settings.

Due to low case numbers at school (end of term 1) we are implementing the following guidelines;

- Staff and Students - We **STRONGLY** encourage and support the wearing of masks indoors. We have masks available for students to use. This is not compulsory however there will be a culture of acceptance.
- Parents and Visitors - **Whaanau, parents and visitors are required** to wear a mask whenever they are **indoors on school grounds.**

We also ask that your child (if they are Year 4+) continues to bring a mask to school every day. There may be times that we'll ask them to wear a mask, too – for example, when we are having an assembly.

If the number of cases in a class, at school or in the community increase, we will ask that masks be worn in classrooms for a time. Whanau will be informed when this decision is made.

Buses and Masks At Orange, students aged 12 and above are still required to wear a face mask on school or public transport.

Keeping us Informed

While COVID is still amongst us, we ask that you keep us informed if your child gets COVID or they need to isolate. This will assist our risk management processes moving forward. You can email Bree in the office on office@whatawhata.school.nz

If you are currently isolating or your child has COVID please let us know.

Pick Up time for Te Kaakano

Pick up times for our junior school will return to normal time of 2:30pm

Term two is exciting as we begin to get back to a better sense of normal. However, we still need to be mindful of others. More school events and opportunities is only good news.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch via email, phone or pop into school.

Ngaa mihi nui,

Matua Rob