

19 August 2022



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Kia ora koutou

Prior to the start of this term we notified parents and whānau that we had decided to continue with compulsory mask wearing indoors at school. We also communicated that this position would be reviewed before the end of week 4 of term 3 to determine if it needed to continue, be modified, or cease to apply.

This week the following advice has been received from the Ministry of Education:

Increased levels of winter illnesses at the start of term are a common trend and when coupled with COVID-19, these can put significant pressure on your schools and communities. The Ministry of Health modelling in July shows that numbers of severe respiratory illness cases, including both COVID-19 and flu, are well down. Your efforts will have certainly contributed to this outcome.

Mask wearing when indoors continues to play an important role in minimising transmission of COVID-19 and winter illnesses, coupled with all your other layers of protection.

It is strongly recommended by public health officials that face masks are worn by students and staff in Year 4 to 13 when indoors, including combined classes when learning and during indoor assemblies.

Taking this advice into account, along with the current reduced levels of student absences at our school, the Board have decided to lift the mandatory requirement for mask wearing by students at school. However we will continue to strongly recommend and encourage mask wearing by students. Staff and visitors to the school will continue to be required to wear masks. This will provide clear role modelling for students.

This decision will be constantly reviewed and any further changes will be communicated immediately.

Under the framework, when at Orange traffic light setting, masks must be worn by students aged 12 and above on school and public transport.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts to keep transmission of COVID-19 and winter illnesses to a minimum including keeping your children at home if they are unwell.

Ngā mihi

Mark Callaghan - Board Chair

Ross Hastings - Principal