

12 September 2022



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Kia ora koutou

### **New long-term strategy for COVID-19**

The Government has announced that Aotearoa New Zealand will move to a new long-term approach to managing COVID-19. The key change is the removal of the COVID-19 Protection Framework (traffic lights), which will take effect tonight (Monday 12 September) from 11:59pm.

These changes have been made based on public health advice and reflect high levels of immunity and declining case numbers across New Zealand.

Household contacts of a person with COVID-19 do not need to isolate, but instead are asked to complete a RAT test each day, for five days. Therefore, students who are household contacts but test negative and do not have COVID-19 symptoms, should attend school.

Information on how to get RAT kits can be found here: [Request a RAT– Ministry of Health](#)

Mask wearing is no longer required or strongly recommended in school settings. Of course any students, staff or visitors to the school who wish to wear a mask may continue to do so.

All the other recommended public health measures will stay in place as we know they reduce the spread of infectious illnesses including COVID-19. These include ensuring our indoor spaces are well-ventilated, maintaining good hand hygiene, encouraging everyone to cough or sneeze into elbows and, most importantly, staying home and getting tested if they have COVID-19 symptoms.

Thank you for your ongoing support in protecting our community.

Ngā mihi

Mark Callaghan - Board Chair

Ross Hastings - Principal