

21 October 2021

Year 11-13 students returning to school

Kia ora koutou, Talofa lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Bula Vinaka, Namaste

Minister Hipkins yesterday confirmed that all our students in Years 11 to 13 are able to return onsite from Tuesday 26 October.

This is very good news as we know how important face-to-face support and engagement will be for our senior students, so that they can complete their studies and continue to the next level.

Although more students will be onsite, our region remains at Alert Level 3 and we know there are active cases in our region.

Therefore, we will be following **all** the public health measures that are required so that we can keep everyone onsite (and their whānau) as safe as possible.

From the start of this outbreak vaccination rates have been climbing steadily and Aucklanders are doing a wonderful job to get vaccinated. As at 18 October, 89% of eligible Aucklanders have received one dose of the vaccine, and 71% their second dose. At the start of the current outbreak those numbers were 42% and 25% respectively.

Higher vaccine rates, including in those aged 12-19 are **one** reason why we are able to bring our senior students onsite now.

Public Health has also advised that they consider that with the other public health measures that are being put in place, including the requirement to wear face coverings for Years 9-13, the risk of infection is low at school.

The greater risk for transmission will come from travel to and from school, including from any bad behaviours that might creep in off-site such as students congregating outside school on their way to and from home, and by any ignoring of the health measures we all need to follow in our region.

Public health experts at the Ministry of Health have reviewed our existing health requirements needed to operate at Alert Level 3 (for those small numbers of students we already have on-site). These include:

- staff and children who are unwell must stay at home, and get tested for COVID-19
- children at higher risk of severe illness remain home, where possible
- staff who are not fully vaccinated **and** at higher risk of severe illness should remain home
- mandatory mask wearing for staff and students in Years 9-13
- only essential visitors will be permitted onsite – visitors are asked to wear a face covering when onsite
- good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette
- classrooms to be well ventilated
- high touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected each day
- physical distancing will be adhered to wherever practicable, particularly between adults

- physical distancing of two metres will be in place from people we don't know
- QR code posters for the COVID app will be displayed
- a contact tracing register in place for everyone coming onsite including students and staff, through the attendance register, timetable and visitor register.

To support the return of our senior students, the additional measures that have been agreed by Cabinet to apply at Alert Level 3, based on public health advice are:

- time outdoors for students and staff will be maximised, including breaks, lunchtime, before and after school (unless the weather does not allow), and rooms will be aired during breaks
- exercising and singing will take place outdoors
- groups meeting indoors, including assemblies or staff meetings, will be avoided, and
- exams can go ahead, but physical distancing will be maximised within the space available, with a minimum of 1.5 metres between desks.

You can be confident that this approach is designed to keep children, teachers and our community as safe as possible.

We understand that you may be anxious to send your child(ren) to school. If you choose to keep them at home, learning tasks for Year 11-13 will be set online for students to continue with. However, as teachers will be teaching their classes in person, Google Meet sessions will not be available as has previously been the case during the lockdown period. Students can email queries to their teacher and will receive a timely reply.

For parents of Year 9 & 10 students, online classes will continue as they have over the lockdown period. Teachers will be conducting these during the allocated times. We are adopting a new timetable, which you can see below:

Time/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
8:20	Staff Briefing	Whanau Mtgs	Staff Briefing		Staff Briefing
9:00 - 9:20	Wellbeing (Kaitohutohu)				
9:20 - 10:20	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1
10:20 - 10:50	Break 1				
10:50 - 11:50	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
11:50 - 12:50	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
12:50 - 1:20	Break 2				
1:20 - 3:10	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4
2:20 - 3:10	If PRIORITY students are not needed in your class for this extension they should be directed to the PRIORITY class below				
	SNR PHO SNR MUS	2ARV SNR MUS SNR HOS	SNR DRA SNR PHO SNR ARV SNR MUS	2ARV SNR HOS SNR MUS	SNR DAN SNR MUS

I understand that this may raise questions with you. I would encourage you to email me at principal@papakurahigh.school.nz. I will do my best to answer your queries.

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou,

Simon Craggs
Tumuaki/Principal