

24 January 2022

Re: Covid Protection Framework - Red Setting

Kia ora koutou, talofa lava, malo e lelei, kia orana, fakalofa lahi atu, bula vinaka, namaste, warm greetings,

As you will be aware the Prime Minister has announced that the country is now at the red setting of the Covid Protection Framework due to community transmission of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. While this is not the start to the school year that we would have hoped for, we are well-prepared as a school and have good information regarding the requirements for schools. The below outlines key information that you need to know.

Schools at Red

- Schools are open for on-site learning for all students
- While all staff and volunteers are required to be vaccinated, students do not have to be vaccinated to attend school. Proof of vaccination is not required. However, some extra-curricular activities may require vaccine passes for participation (e.g. inter-school sports, Polyfest etc.)
- Face coverings are required for all students Year 4 and upwards when indoors or in close contact with others.
- The school will maintain basic hygiene measures including regular cleaning, well-ventilated classrooms and use of hand sanitiser.
- A contact tracing system will be in place for each class.
- Online or paper-based support will be available for those young people with complex medical needs who are advised by their health professional to remain at home.
- Visitors/parents will be allowed on-site for essential business only and must sign in at Reception.

Wānanga Week

Due to the change in setting to Red, we will no longer be able to run our special week of activities as planned. We will now be starting normal timetabled classes for Year 11-13 students from Tuesday 1 February. School starts at 8.50 am on that day with an extended Kaitohutohu time. New students should report to the Hall.

Year 9 (and other new students) Pōwhiri

Under Red setting schools have been urged to avoid large gatherings which could compromise the safety of students and staff. Consequently, and under advice from the Ministry of Education, we will have a school pōwhiri for Year 9 students and other new students on Tuesday 8 February at 9 am. Unfortunately, this will not be open to parents and caregivers. We hope to be able to organise a link so parents and whānau can view from home or work.

Returning to school

We are aware that many students have not attended or engaged with school since August last year and that many will be anxious about returning. I would like to reassure you that our staff will welcome them back without judgement and will be willing to support where we can.



PAPAKURA
HIGH SCHOOL

For those worried about Covid, we are now transitioning to a phase of living with the virus in the community and vaccinations have proven effective against hospitalisation and severe illness. Continued absence from school is harmful to the mental and social health of young people and we will be implementing all of the public health advice to minimise risk of transmission. We would encourage all students to return to school unless advised to by a health professional. Please keep in communication with the school and we are happy to support your child's return to school. Our teachers will not be able to conduct online classes while the school is open.

We are looking forward to welcoming back our students and to having a great year in 2022.

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou,

Simon Craggs
Tumuaki/Principal