



One Tree Point School
Te Arakahika
“Empowering Learners Who CARE”

27/01/2022

Kia ora e te whānau

Welcome back after what we hope has been a wonderful summer for your whānau.

This letter is to inform you about the current COVID-19 restrictions as we have moved into ‘red’ under the Covid-19 traffic light framework. As always, we will be prioritising staff and student health and well-being within the Covid-19 restrictions and keeping life at school as normal as possible. If you have any concerns at all about any of the following health and safety measures, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Our health and safety measures were developed based on the direction from the Ministry of Education and are as follows:

Child Sickness

If your child is showing any signs of sickness they need to be kept at home until well. We will be sending children home if they become sick at school.

Evidence of vaccinations

We cannot require evidence of a child’s vaccination status. Nor can a child be excluded from school or education outside the classroom (EOTC) based on vaccination status. **We will not be asking for evidence of children’s vaccination status.**

Masks/Face coverings

The Ministry of Education requires all teachers and students from year 4 to wear masks whilst indoors unless proof of exemption is shown

The Ministry of Education will also require students from year 4 onwards to wear a mask whilst on the school bus.

Public health advice is that an appropriate face covering will fit snugly and seal well around facial contours. This can include single use, disposable masks (medical masks) and re-usable fabric masks with three layers.

[Here is information and a video](#) that may help explain to young children how to safely put a mask on and remove it.

Mask Exemption

if your child has a disability or a health condition that makes wearing a face covering unsuitable you can get an exemption card from:

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ by contacting them on 04 801 9100 or emailing them at info@dpa.org.nz — for disabled people or if you have a health condition.

Deaf Aotearoa by emailing covid@deaf.org.nz — for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

Events and activities

We have been advised that gatherings of more than 100 people (including children) are not permitted, so there will be no whole school assemblies. Events held outside continue to minimise risk and we have adjusted our planning to ensure as many events as possible continue within these guidelines.

Visitors on Site

We have been advised there should be no non-essential visitors onsite at Red, so we encourage you where possible, to drop your children off before coming onto the school grounds. However, we completely understand that some parents will need to come onto the school grounds to settle children into school. We just ask that you scan in and wear a mask, or show an exemption card and keep your time inside short or stay outside the classrooms where possible.

Distancing and Groupings - change to school timetable/breaktimes.

We have been asked to group our students so wherever possible they are not intermingling with other groups. We have therefore split the school into 2 groups - years 0-3 and years 4-6. We have adjusted the school timetable and staggered break times to minimise contact between these two groups. We will also have 3 shorter break times instead of 2, with as much time spent outside as possible.

School Pick Up

We will be asking whānau who collect their child from school to do so on the school field. This can be accessed via the gate from the carpark in front of the tennis courts or through the pedestrian gate in front of the swimming pool. This space will enable the required 2 metre social distancing in a safe space and minimise students crowding together when exiting the school.

Ventilation

Providing good old fashioned fresh air remains the most important thing we can do in our learning spaces to minimise risk for ākongā and kaiako (and the same goes for you at home). All windows and doors will be open with the air conditioning on to ensure as comfortable an environment as possible.

Managing cases in our school

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing a physical onsite school and moving to distance learning for everyone. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

Please make sure the contact details we have on file for you and your emergency contacts are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

We are all really excited and looking forward to welcoming you and your whānau back to school.

Ngā mihi nui

Shirley Winters