



23 July 2022

Kia ora koutou,

Masking up for the start of Term 3

In previous years we have found there is an increase in winter illnesses in schools at the start of Term 3. This year cases of COVID-19 are increasing in most parts of the country, and we are also seeing high numbers of other winter illnesses.

For the start of Term 3, 2022, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health strongly recommend that all schools and kura amend their mask policy for the first four weeks of term to require mask wearing in all indoor settings (where it will not have a significant impact on teaching and learning – see below) for students in Years 4 and above.

This recommendation does not include any situation where mask wearing might not be practicable, such as while eating and drinking, playing certain musical instruments, indoor sport, where it will have a significant impact on teaching and learning (for example, students with particular learning needs), certain activities such as singing, drama and PE.

Wearing masks can reduce new cases of the virus by as much as 53%. It works alongside other measures including vaccination, good ventilation, staying home when sick and hand washing and other hygiene measures, to protect our students and staff.

Please make sure that your children come to school ready to wear masks on Monday. We have a limited supply of masks for students who are unable to bring one from home. The Ministry of Education has advised schools to keep this policy in place until Friday 19 August where it will be reviewed.

We're looking forward to seeing your children back at school on Monday and hope that they have had a nice holiday!

Kia haumaruru te noho-stay safe

Craig Vidulich
Principal/Tumuaki Kapakapanui School