



Covid Update

24/07/22

Dear Parents and Whanau Tēnā koutou i tēnei ahiahi,

For Term 3 the Ministries of Health and Education recommend students Year 4 and above wear masks indoors for the next four weeks of term.

This means that for the start of Term 3, 2022, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health strongly recommend that all schools and kura require for the **first four weeks** of term, mask wearing in all indoor settings for students in Years 4 and above.

In previous years the Ministry of Education has found there is an increase in winter illnesses in schools at the start of Term 3 as students bring back infections after travelling and socialising during the holidays. This year cases of COVID-19 are increasing in most parts of the country, and there are high numbers of other winter illnesses.

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 or drama performance on stage, and
- PE.

In these situations, particular attention will be paid to ensuring there is good ventilation during the activity, and physical distancing where practicable.

We know that some of our tamariki/ākongā are exempt from wearing a mask. If they have an exemption card or a letter from their health provider, or we have agreed that mask wearing is not practicable for them, we will support them to not wear a mask. Apply for a face mask exemption pass – Unite Against COVID-19

Please make sure that tamariki/ākongā come to school ready to wear masks.

Students may bring masks from home or

There will be a supply of masks for students who are unable to bring one from home.

If at any stage we need to move to hybrid or offsite learning because of relief staff being unavailable, we will inform you in plenty of time to make arrangements for your children. This decision will be made in consultation with your Board Chair Mrs Christelle Penny.

Thank you for your support in protecting our school community.

Noho ora mai

Thank you

Suzanne Downey
Principal
St Joseph's School.

Ma te wa
Kia Kaha
Haumi e Hui e Taiki e - Join, Gather, Unite

.