

Return of Year 11-13 students to on-site learning

Fakaalofa lahi atu Students & Whaanau

Yesterday Minister Hipkins confirmed that all our students in Years 11 to 13 are able to return onsite from Tuesday 26 October. We know how important face-to-face support and engagement is for many of our senior students, so that they can complete their studies and continue to the next level.

A reminder to enable us to complete our planning if you are a senior student **please can you reply by Friday 9am to the email or text you have received from mhs@manurewa.school.nz to confirm if you will be returning on Tuesday 26th October.**

Below is some further detail about the Ministry of Health information and guidelines we have received to help you make a decision:

Although more students will be onsite, Auckland 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 whaanau) as safe as possible.

From the start of this outbreak vaccination rates have been climbing steadily and Aucklanders are doing an amazing job to get vaccinated. The Ministry of Health data, as of 18 October, is 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 the government has said 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 at school is low.

The greater risk for transmission will come from students traveling to and from school, including ignoring the health measures we all need to follow to protect our community. Please have conversations with our rangatahi on how they can keep themselves safe when traveling to and from school e.g. wearing masks at all times, not hanging out with friends and travelling straight home to minimise any risk of infection to your whaanau bubble.

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 the government to apply at Alert Level 3, based on public health advice are:

- Face coverings will be required on school transport for people aged 12 and over
- 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
- Exams can go ahead, but physical distancing will be maximised within the space available, with a minimum of 1.5 metres between desks.

The government is confident that this approach is designed to keep children, teachers and our community as safe as possible.

It is important everybody continues to play their part. Please follow all the Alert Level 3 requirements – stay at home if you are unwell, get tested if you have any symptoms, even mild ones, maintain your bubble and keep track of where you have been. Finally, the government is asking us all to support everyone we know who is eligible to get vaccinated.

People can access their COVID-19 vaccination record by registering for [My Covid Record](#) which is now available:

[Find a walk-in and drive-through vaccination centres nearest you.](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need support. Kia kaha taatou, look after yourselves and whaanau. Stay safe in your bubbles, stay home if you can and please keep following the Alert Level 3 guidelines.

Ngaa mihi

Pete Jones
Tumuaki |Principal Manurewa High School