



18 February 2022

Principal's Update 18 February 2022

Kia Ora everyone

We are very aware we are operating in yet another COVID year. The senior leadership team is increasingly spending much time on procedures and monitoring actions designed to be as safe as we possibly can as a state-integrated school.

Please note the following:

Instructions from the MOE continue to be updated daily and weekly. Therefore our planned communication promised today will not happen and instead we will issue a communication regarding handling positive cases at school early next week.

Apart from this update we want to give parents a break from campus communications over the weekend.

1. Can you immediately update us regarding any change of address and contact details. It is absolutely essential that we have your latest details when contacting you regarding any matter but especially COVID.
2. As a school, we currently have two students who are isolating due to having tested positive. In each case we have followed MOE/MOH procedures and they have critiqued our actions. In each case we have communicated appropriately. In each case we have done all we can to maintain safety for everyone.
3. A number of students are also isolating as a result and we thank all the parents for their 100% support in the actions we took this week. Thank you to all those parents who acted with grace and worked with us collecting your child as soon as possible, to avoid further exposure opportunities.
4. As a school community you can be assured that our actions and our information ensures that your child can continue to access schooling on any of campuses daily.
5. Our internal review showed that some misinformation was spread and that even some staff did not keep up with their emails and therefore were apparently confused. I have supreme confidence that our Campus Leads did a superb job this past week and will continue to do so throughout this year.
6. As a school we are ready as from Monday 21 February to go fully or partially online with learning as and when required.

7. It is appropriate at this time to remind everyone about the importance of good hygiene practices and the wearing of a mask. The wearing of masks enables us to quickly identify risk and reduce the need for widespread isolation. We support a mask wearing culture across our school.

8. We have found that all students and staff are managing this well, with support. All learning spaces are encouraged to take regular breaks outside as needed.

9. We realise that some children just can't wear a mask and we will support them with this decision making. Our school also has masks available if children forget theirs.

A note from our Counselling Team

Please bear in mind that while physical wellbeing may be top of mind for many of us, as it should be, our counselling team is also very aware that emotional responses can vary widely and can be felt acutely at times like these. Some may feel settled and steady while others may find themselves experiencing unexpected amounts of worry/anxiety/ tension. Do check in with each other in your family, check in with the loud ones and the quiet ones and ask those simple questions...How are you doing? Is there anything you need to talk about? Please be encouraged to reach out for support and, while you may have family, friends, and church support, please know that our counselling team is available too if you feel it would be helpful to talk to someone (this can be done by phone or online). Please contact us on Counselling referral form

(<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdpKetYSK32Ph9HsPu46RRS0CZgRHoj6Rm0qOvzI5O0z3ctjg/viewform>) or email yvette.britten@elim.schol.nz

Our prayers are with our students and families who may find themselves unwell and feeling uncertain due to COVID.

Much aroha and have a great weekend everyone

Nga mihi nui

**Murray Burton MNZM
PRINCIPAL**