

25 February 2022

Principal's Update

Kia Ora one and all

"The lovers of God who chase after righteousness will find all their dreams come true: an abundant life drenched with favour and a fountain that overflows with satisfaction."

Proverbs 21:21

Welcome to Phase 3 or are you about to phase out??
Or should we just say this is a passing phase?
It certainly brings some further change.

Firstly, can I say a huge thank you to our community for your support as we have sought to manage health and safety at our campuses.

Secondly – my prayers are with those who have tested positive – may you rest and recover well whilst staying at home. We look forward to seeing you again soon or online.

Managing the Changing Landscape of Omicron

We continue to pursue the following steps under CPF Red Setting in all campuses:

1. All students Y4-13, and younger if they wish, are to wear masks at all time whenever they are indoors.
2. All staff wear masks at all times when indoors
3. Everyone must follow all the existing health protocols when at school or on a school bus
4. No parents can come onto our campuses unless a specific meeting has been arranged and such a meeting will be conducted with masks on
5. No class or subject trips, camps or sporting events are taking place
6. Staff allow all age groups to take regular breaks outside during their periods of learning
7. Social distancing as much as reasonably possible continues in all aspects of school operation
8. Learning spaces are ventilated as much as we can possible get them
9. Air quality measurements are taken at all campuses at regular intervals
10. GC and MAC Campuses have their sites grouped to minimise spread through interaction
11. The above has so far made it unlikely that our positive cases have originated at school

Please note the following important information:

1. **If your child has COVID-19 - notify your Campus Lead immediately and follow MOH isolation guidelines**
Botany Campus: Stephen.Briscoe@elim.school.nz
Mt Albert Campus: Tania.Calvert@elim.school.nz
Golflands Campus JY: Jonathan.McPhail@elim.school.nz
Golflands Campus MY; Mandy.Heim@elim.school.nz

2. When we are notified of a student positive case – that student alone isolates but we welcome all other students to keep attending on site
3. If you are living with someone who has COVID-19 - you are a Household Contact - You need to isolate for 10 days and get a test on Day 3 and Day 10.
4. Students who are a household contact must send evidence of a negative test result to your Campus Lead prior to returning to school
5. Everyone is to monitor daily for symptoms. If you develop symptoms or are sick in any other respect, stay home, take a test and follow MOH isolation guidelines
6. If your child is currently isolating due to being a close contact under Phase 2, they may return to school as they are no longer considered to be a close contact.

On our website we record and publish the locations of interest in our campuses for identified positive cases, but we never publish the student's name for privacy reasons.

If your child tests positive, you must immediately notify your Campus Lead before you publish it to anyone else anywhere.

Please help us and respect this request so that we can respond as fast as we can for the health of all.

We have observed that attendance in this COVID time is now quite variable and as parents you are most certainly able to make the decision around attendance.

However currently this is our position on the provision of online learning opportunities:

As time moves on we will adapt what we provide online. We believe with all our current health protocols in place, it is safe to be at school and we actively encourage all students to attend if at all possible.

Face to face will be pursued for as long as we are able. Having extended periods away from school can and in many cases will have significant impact on progress and achievement.

Currently we are not providing the same distance learning that we had during lockdown in 2021 however we are offering temporary distance learning for students having to isolate. Your child will need your support with their work.

Campus Leads will follow up on this but in the main a student will need to complete most work online, independently. Teachers are not yet doing any online teaching or meetings with students working at home.

I trust that the above is helpful information for you. It is important for you to be aware of all of these details when you are making your decision about attendance at school.

We will next communicate as things change but Campus newsletters will be on their way next week.

Much aroha

Nga mihi nui



Murray Burton MNZM
PRINCIPAL