

13 October 2021

Kia Ora our wonderful Elim community

This highly challenging COVID year continues. This update is designed to prepare you for the coming school term, to share with you what we know, and to ask you to complete information regarding attendance next week.

Firstly some big picture items: (and more information will be forthcoming)

- A. **Auckland remains at Alert Level 3** and online schooling will continue as from this coming Monday. Cabinet will review this decision that same day. We will continue to support all students who remain learning from home through our distance learning programme.
- B. **A timeline has been put in place** by the government whereby all staff - this includes principals, teachers, relief teachers, support staff, maintenance staff, OSCAR providers, NZQA exam supervisors etc...**have to be fully vaccinated**. No one is exempt unless they provide appropriate medical evidence for an exemption and identify how they can reasonably assure us that they are not at risk of transmitting COVID-19. We shortly start working with all staff to get a greater understanding of the current vaccination rate of all employees.
- C. **We are required** to maintain a COVID-19 vaccination register for all staff and students 12 years and up. This information will be held by us in accordance with the Privacy Act and will only be shared with public health authorities. Instructions will come on how and when we will do this
- D. **When students do return to our campus sites**, all students and staff in our Y9-13 area are required to wear face coverings when indoors and face coverings are also required to be worn on school transport for Years 9 to 13.

Specifically for the coming week(s) in Alert Level 3:

1. We are using MOH and MOE guidance to do the best we can to minimise risk and maximise health and safety. All staff who will work on site next week are required to have returned a negative COVID-19 test result before they can come on site. This is regardless of their vaccination status.
2. It is our firm belief that most if not all students should continue to learn from home, as hard as that is at times.
3. If required, we will **only open one campus at next week for Y1-10 students and that will be Golflands**. All our usual safety precautions for Alert Level 3 will be in place. This means students will be kept in bubbles of no more than 10.
4. Y11-13 all continue to learn from home for all of Level 3. Y11-13 students must not come on site unless specific provision is made for tuition and/or testing.
5. Parents and visitors are not permitted to come on site at Level 3. Staff will meet families at the gates. All adults arriving at school for drop offs and pickups must have a mask on and maintain social distancing.
6. Our '**opening the school at Level 3**' plan is again based on a **Gold, Silver & Bronze approach**: This reflects our transparency, our desire for maximum risk reduction, our aim to preserve well-being of staff still teaching online; student well-being and our recognition of the supreme difficulties of operating school on and off site!

Gold Standard: (our responsibility for maximum health and safety)

- a maximum of 2 student bubbles
- staff assigned to a bubble on site do not also have online teaching commitments
- all staff on site have been vaccinated

Silver Standard: (still our responsibility for maximum health and safety but with less guarantees under the level)

- a maximum of 3 student bubbles
- the vast majority of staff on site assigned to a bubble do not have online teaching commitments
- most staff on site have been vaccinated

Bronze Standard: (still our responsibility for maximum health and safety but with rapidly increasing reduction in being able to manage the COVID risk as we see it under the level)

- more than 3 student bubbles
- staff on site assigned to a bubble will most likely also have online teaching commitments
- possibly an equal number of staff on site have and have not been vaccinated

- **Level 3 Survey Onsite Registration**
- Essential workers who have no other alternative for their child to learn from home, are requested to complete a registration for your child/children so that we can plan for Level 3. It is important to note that siblings will not be placed in separate learning bubbles regardless of their year level. The school day will vary slightly from normal arrival and departure times, as each learning bubble is required to have separate times.
- Confirmation of your child's registration will be emailed, along with arrival and departure times before Monday.
- **Please complete the registration form by 10am Thursday 14th October : We must have time to allocate staff to onsite school.**
- <https://forms.gle/R7js8vXYqmgs8HgH7>

Please continue to follow all the alert level requirements including keeping your child at home if they are feeling unwell. Please contact your GP or Healthline, to seek advice about getting tested. We recommend you make an informed decision regarding vaccinations.

Final Matters

- Each campus with either separately or jointly with another campus send out specific instructions and guidance for the coming term.
- With it seeming likely that we will not move lower than Level 2 during Term 4, prize givings, assemblies, orientation events, camps, end year events, student reports etc...will all be revised in format and communication regarding these will be forthcoming.

- With the enrolments process mostly completed for 2022 and knowing how full we will be, if you have not done so, please let us know if your child is not returning. We have many parents anxious to have their child(ren) join our school in 2022. If you wish to chat about any aspect of your child's schooling for 2022, please do not hesitate to make contact.
- For many years we have required all students from Y3 to bring their own ipad. As part of our ongoing review of digital use, we have now revised that to be for students in Y4 not Y3. As stated our review is ongoing with key staff having input in the pursuit of wise and healthy stewardship of digital devices.
- Over the lockdown period before these holidays we greatly appreciated and deeply valued the Fono we held with our Pacific Peoples and the Hui with Tangata Whenua. We intend to build on those outcomes with you all moving into 2022. We are anxious to help families with Y11-13 students especially in the preparation for NCEA externals.
- We are grateful for the families who took part in the Special Character Review. The Proprietors will soon convey their thoughts to the Board and to parent community.
- A specific communication will shortly come out on the special character donation but we wish to wait until the operation for schooling in Term 4 has been communicated.

God bless and much Aroha



Murray Burton MNZM
PRINCIPAL