

Kia ora koutou,

Firstly I want to say how grateful we have been for the amazing way our school community has got in behind this lockdown, done what has been asked and been so supportive of each other. Thank you for the incredible work you have all done since we were all last able to meet face to face.

The Government has kept with their cautious approach when responding to COVID-19, and as a result, we will stay at Alert Level 3 for a bit longer.

It is now legally required that we hold a COVID-19 vaccination register for all students and staff.

We will therefore need to know if your child has had their first or second vaccine dose or is exempted from being vaccinated. This information will be held by us in accordance with the Privacy Act and will only be shared with public health authorities in accordance with relevant COVID-19 response practices.

If we were to have a case of COVID-19 in our school, public health authorities will want to know if we are a school with a high vaccination rate. This information will then be used as part of the local health authority's risk assessment. The more highly vaccinated we are (staff and students), the less likely it will be that we will have to close down for a long period of time, or we might not need to close at all.

We are therefore getting our data collection system in place and will get in touch with you again very soon to explain what you will need to do to help us get the information we are required to gather from you.

At alert level 3 you must stay within your household bubble unless for essential personal movement, including going to work and going to school. Therefore school remains closed to all students but for the small number of children (those under 14 basically) who need to attend where no alternative care options are available to them. All our usual safety precautions for alert level 3 will be in place which include all the recommendations from the public health experts. This means students will be kept in bubbles of no more than 10.

Please note that face coverings are now required to be worn on school transport for students in years 9 – 13 in addition to being worn when at school.

Any staff on-site will also have been tested for COVID-19 before they get back to work and we are working toward having all of our staff vaccinated – so we are all playing our part in keeping our community safe.

You can also assist everyone's safety by keeping your child at home if they are feeling unwell and please do contact your GP or Healthline, to seek advice about getting tested.

We will continue to support all children who remain learning from home through our distance learning programme.



**PAPATOETOE**  
HIGH SCHOOL

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While we know how difficult it is trying to work from home as well as support your child's learning, please keep your child at home if there is an appropriate carer available. For those of you with no other option, we will operate as we did prior to the school holidays. Nicholson Ave gate will be open at 9.00am each morning if no other care arrangement is available for your child.

We are proud of how our community has responded to this outbreak, but the mahi isn't yet done. Please continue to follow all the alert level requirements including staying at home and getting tested for COVID-19 if you are feeling unwell, and for your own sake and for the health of your whānau, please get vaccinated. We have included some [information about vaccinations](#) to support your decision making.

These are the very best things we can do to keep our community as safe as possible and get everyone back to school.

Ngā mihi,  
*The team at Papatoetoe High School*

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