



PAPATOETOE
HIGH SCHOOL

Kia ora koutou

I hope this email finds you safe and well.

Friday 3 December will be the last timetabled day for onsite learning. During Monday 6 – Wednesday 8 December, only those learners under 14 **with no other care options available** will be supported via on site learning. The rest of the students will continue to learn online until Wednesday 8 December (last day for all students).

The remainder of 2021

With attendance rates this week starting to drop significantly, and as most students are choosing to learn from home, we have made the decision to return to learning online for the final few days of this term.

Prizegivings 2021

This year has been an incredibly challenging one, but it has been a year where students have still managed to excel all over the campus and screen. We will be releasing our 2021 Prizegiving video and webpage before the end of next week to acknowledge publicly the exceptional work of so many. We are not able to operate any sort of physical event (as schools remain in alert level 3.2 for the remainder of 2021) so we are trying to make the most of a difficult situation in terms of celebrating success. Our links will be posted [here](#) when the time comes, and we will push out an email reminder at the time too.

Finally, this is likely to be our final newsletter for the year and we would like to thank you all, once more, for the resilience, determination, community spirit and support that you have all demonstrated over a quite extraordinary year. I am extremely grateful to you all for all you have done in our community in 2021. Let's hope 2022 brings us some certainty, safety and significantly more 'normal' than we have seen this year.

New COVID-19 Protection (*Traffic Light*) Framework

You may have heard that everyone in Aotearoa/New Zealand will move to the new COVID-19 Protection (*Traffic Light*) Framework on Friday 3 December. Auckland will be moving to Red.

Elimination and the alert levels have worked well, with New Zealand having the lowest numbers of cases and hospitalisations in the OECD. Whilst still under control, Delta is in our communities and the public health strategy now focuses on minimising its impact.

With 85% of eligible New Zealanders now fully vaccinated, and by mid-December it is expected to be approximately 90%, it has been decided to carefully reopen while continuing to protect New Zealanders.

This means that we don't have to change the way we are operating classes this year, and everyone can continue to attend school onsite.

For next year, we can confirm that everyone will be back onsite for learning from the start of the school year, regardless of what setting under the new *Traffic Light* Framework we are in at the time (Red/Orange/Green). This is good news and means we can plan, with a degree of certainty, for a great 2022.

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Health measures in place at school

This year and next, health, safety and wellbeing will continue to be a priority for us and the same public health measures you are very familiar with will remain in place:

- good hygiene and cleaning
- contact tracing systems in place
- vaccination requirements for workers (paid and unpaid)
- if you are sick, you must stay home and get tested
- good ventilation.

And if we are at Red at any stage next year:

- face coverings will be required at school when indoors for students and staff
- we will ask that only essential visitors come onsite.

With all these measures in place, public health has confirmed the risk of infection remains low when at school, with households continuing to be where COVID-19 is spreading the most. As noted by Dr Caroline McElnay, Director of Public Health:

Our experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 shows that it does not affect children and teens in the same way it does adults. Children and teens don't become as unwell if they do get infected, and they don't tend to pass the virus on so much as adults when in a classroom setting.

Compared to other places, schools and early learning services are not environments where we have seen significant spread of COVID-19. Household members and work colleagues who are in close contact with people with COVID-19, are the most common sources of transmission.

However, if we do have someone confirmed with COVID-19 in our school, we have a plan in place to manage this and will contact you as soon as possible.

If you'd like to learn more about the framework visit [COVID-19 Protection Framework](#).

Start dates for 2022

Looking ahead, the start dates for 2022 are as follows (reminders will be sent to you in January):

Year 10-13 on Tuesday 1st February

Year 9 on Wednesday 2nd February

Wishing you a safe and happy festive season.

Ngā mihi
The team @ PHS



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