

Community update 12/10

Kia ora e te whānau,

We have been thinking of you all in your mirumiru (bubble) and hope you are all safe and well. These school holidays have not exactly been the break we are all used to but we hope you have had some opportunity to enjoy the sunshine.

NO SCHOOL NEXT WEEK

As announced by the Prime Minister yesterday, Cabinet has made the decision **NOT** to open schools in Auckland for Week 1 of Term 4 on the 18th of October.

ALL learners will remain at home and continue with their "Learning from Home" programme for the week of the 18th - 22nd October.

We will hear from the Prime Minister next Monday 18th as to when we might be returning to school. The Ministries of Health and Education recognise they have a duty of care to keep all learners - and particularly our more vulnerable learners - safe.

With this in mind they are strengthening the health measures in all schools.

Information will be coming out from the Ministry of Education over the course of this week around the following;

- The immediate COVID-19 testing requirements for school staff prior to their return to school.
- Vaccines for all staff.
- Registers of vaccination status.

We will update in a timely manner as and when we know more information.

This is what we do know already.

VACCINATIONS

Public health advice cannot be clearer: **vaccinations are the most significant tool** we have to reduce the risk of serious illness in our communities. If most of us are vaccinated, we can also reduce the risk of outbreaks which can lead to lockdowns and put our health system under pressure.

It is now legally required that we hold a COVID-19 vaccination register for all eligible students and staff. This information will support public health authorities in their rapid risk assessment if there was a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our school.

<p>STAFF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please be assured that Oaklynn has a very high rate of vaccination across all staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. There is now a mandatory vaccination requirement in the whole of the education sector and we will be working with staff to ensure we meet the Ministry of Health requirements. 	<p>We will be in contact with those unvaccinated staff shortly.</p>
<p>STUDENTS The Ministry of Education has asked schools to record the vaccination status of all students aged 12 years and over with regard to COVID-19.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We would like to start getting this information in as soon as possible in readiness for the register.</p>	<p>We will be in touch with parents, whānau and carers over the next week or so.</p>
<p>MANDATORY TESTING</p>	
<p>All school staff who work in schools and kura in Auckland and other Alert Level 3 regions are required to have returned a negative COVID-19 test result before they can return to working on site. This is regardless of their vaccination status.</p>	<p>We will let you know as we receive more information.</p>
<p>FACE COVERINGS</p>	
<p>At Alert Level 3, students and staff who are in registered schools that provide secondary education (state, state integrated and private) are required to wear face coverings when indoors.</p>	<p>Some of our students are unable to wear masks and that is OK.</p>
<p>Be Kind</p>	
<p>There will be people who are disappointed and upset with the decision around mandatory vaccinations as it will conflict with their beliefs, they will be in our schools and communities, they will be our colleagues. We need to remember our compassion and kindness as we all navigate some difficult decisions over the course of Term Four.</p>	

Noho ora mai, Louise Doyle, Principal , Oaklynn School