



## COVID Community Update Mask wearing Term 4 2022

Friday 14th October 2022

Kia ora koutou katoa,

We trust you have all had a peaceful break over the last two weeks.

We are writing to you all - kaimahi, whānau and ākonga with an update on our COVID response measures.

The mask mandate was dropped across Aotearoa New Zealand many weeks ago and as notified Oaklynn kept mask wearing for the remainder of Term 3 - We would like to thank all of our staff and community for supporting this decision.

We said that we would review this decision again this week. We've considered factors such as decrease in numbers in our community and better weather allowing increased ventilation.

The Senior Leadership team have met recently and decided that as of the start of Term 4;

### **Wearing masks indoors or outdoors will become optional for kaimahi (staff) and ākonga (students)**

Whilst we drop the mandate to wear masks we would like to remind you of the other measures that we will be keeping in place to minimise the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19. They are:

1. We will keep the vaccine mandate for all staff - everyone on staff and every newly recruited staff member has had the vaccine.
2. Ventilation in all rooms - either windows open and/or air purifiers.
3. Screening for COVID-19 is still available - we have a large supply of RAT tests.
4. Symptomatic people - students or staff will be asked to go home.
5. We will continue to take the extra precaution of asking staff to remain at home (on full pay) if they are sick.

We keep our safety measures in line with the Ministries of Education and Health guidance and will inform you of any changes as they occur.

We appreciate that taking away the mandated mask wearing may cause some anxiety for some whānau - if you have any concerns about your tamariki (young child) or rangatahi (young adult) please don't hesitate to contact us on [healthandsafety@oaklynn.school.nz](mailto:healthandsafety@oaklynn.school.nz) and we will be in contact to discuss your concerns.

Ngā mihi mahana

Louise Doyle

Principal