

Community update 05/04/2022

Kia ora e te whānau

It is timely for us to update you regarding our decisions around how we seek to handle the recent removal of mandates from education - in regard to best supporting our specialist school community. With legal advice we have drafted a policy and sought consultation within our school community - regarding an Oaklynn policy which supports us to keep the stipulations of the mandate in place, ensuring that staff are fully vaccinated and boosted in order to maintain the utmost health and safety for our vulnerable learners and their whānau.

This policy was open to feedback from all staff regarding the content therein. Since such a policy affects all staff - it is important that any Oaklynn employee is allowed the opportunity to provide feedback.

The policy describes how:

The risk profile for Oaklynn School is different from that of a mainstream school. Many of our students are of vulnerable health, many have no understanding of social distancing and do not reliably wear masks, and many require physical assistance.

Further that:

Although the first wave of COVID-Omicron cases is passing in Auckland:

- *Infection numbers remain high.*
- *There is a risk of further waves , or of the development of new strains of COVID in future.*

Although we have had a decrease in case numbers within the school, we need to be prepared for "further waves" and are still cautious in regard to ensuring that our health and safety measures are still in place to best benefit our school community.

Thank you once again for your support in regard to keeping our school community safe and well. It is a combined effort and we appreciate that everyone is making compromises to either stay home with their young person when they are unwell or to keep them at home if a whānau member is unwell with Covid. This is the way we can continue to keep our whole school community as safe as possible.

Ngā mihi mahana,

Pilar Romero

Pilar Romero
Acting Principal

