



14th September 2022

Kia ora e te whānau,

As you will be aware the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced today that Cabinet agreed to remove the COVID-19 Protection Framework as of Monday 12 September at 11.59pm.

This COVID-19 update newsletter outlines how these decisions will impact on our kura.

The senior leadership team met this morning to discuss mask wearing and have made the decision that:

All staff will continue to wear masks indoors until the end of Term 3 - 30th September

During the school break the senior leadership team will review this guideline to decide whether we return to school on Monday 17th October without masks or with masks for a little longer.

We are hoping that by early or during next term our winter illnesses and bugs will have passed and we will have more settled staffing and be able to stop wearing masks.

In the interim however, we have decided to continue with masks because of the following reasons:

1. At Oaklynn - as a rule we have taken a cautious approach to maintaining āhuru mōwai - our safe haven - we are supporting our community's wellbeing and this has been well received by staff and whānau alike.
2. Many of our learners are vulnerable and have health conditions.
3. Some whānau have expressed how they feel safer sending their tamariki / rangatahi to school knowing we are all wearing masks indoors.
4. We have really struggled to maintain a safe level of staffing over this last term due to illnesses - despite the safety precaution of wearing masks. We have had between 13 and 25 people away on a regular basis
5. The isolation rules have changed - which means that we may have staff coming into work from a home where there is a covid case - the only measure to keep others safe is daily RAT testing.

We have made this decision based on our current understanding and knowledge AND we are also very interested in what you think about mask wearing in school.

Please share your thoughts with us by emailing healthandsafety@oaklynn.school.nz

Thank you for your support,

Nāku noa nā

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He aroha whakatō, he aroha ka puta mai.

If kindness is sown, then kindness is what you shall receive.