



Thursday 14 October 2021

## COVID-19 Alert Level 3 - Northland

Kia ora,

As you are aware, the Government has made the decision to shift our region to Alert Level 3 while health authorities quickly track down contacts, and test and isolate confirmed cases of COVID-19 if they are in our community.

We remain at this level until **Monday 18 October 2021, 11:59pm** – the first day of Term 4.

As part of the return to opening schools safely, staff are now required to return a negative COVID-19 test. We hope that this will be in place for Monday 18 October 2021 but it is reliant on how quickly our staff receive the test results back.

This will impact the start of school on Monday with the Government reviewing the alert levels on the same day. At Alert Level 3 schools reopen in a limited capacity for students of essential workers up to and including Year 10, where they are unable to be supervised at home.

**Please** let the school know whether you are intending to send your child/ren to school on Monday 18 October by ringing or texting the school phone number – 027 268 5313 by **Sunday morning 17 October, 12:00pm**.

Only those who contact us to let us know their child/ren are attending school on Monday 18 October can be at school on that day.

We will confirm by phone / text to those who contact us on Sunday afternoon as to whether we can open on Monday 18 October. This will be dependent on whether the staff's negative COVID-19 test results are back.

The Alert Level 3 school day can be found below.

All our usual safety precautions for Alert Level 3 will be in place which include following all recommendations from the public health experts.

This means we will regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, encourage everyone to frequently wash their hands and cover their coughs and sneezes, and keep everyone physically distanced from others as much as possible (1m outside, 2m inside).

We will also keep school bubbles to no more than 10 students. These bubbles will not mix with other bubbles.

Some of the new changes to Alert Level 3 includes the following:

- Students in Years 9 – 13 are now required to wear face mask coverings when at school in Alert Level 3, as are the staff.
- Face coverings are now also required to be worn on school transport for students in Years 9 – 13.



Our contact tracing systems will be in place, which includes our attendance register and visitor register, and we will be limiting staff onsite with the majority of our team working from home.

You can also assist with everyone's safety by keeping your child at home if they are feeling unwell. Please do contact your GP or Healthline to seek advice about getting tested.

It is also now legally required that we hold a COVID-19 vaccination register for all eligible students and staff. If we were to have a case of COVID-19 in our school, public health authorities will want to know if we are a school with a high vaccination rate. This information will then be used as part of the local health authorities risk assessment.

The more highly vaccinated we are (staff and eligible students), the less likely it will be that we will have to close down for a long period of time, or we might not need to close at all.

We therefore need to know if your child/ren has had their first or second vaccine dose or is exempt from being vaccinated.

This information will be held by us in accordance with the Privacy Act and will only be shared with the public health authorities. Once our data collection system is in place we will get in touch with you again to request this information.

We are proud of how the community has responded to this outbreak, but the mahi is not yet done. Please continue to follow all the Alert Level requirements, including staying home and getting tested for COVID-19 if you are feeling unwell. These are the very best things we can do to keep our community as safe as possible and to eventually get everyone back to school.

See below a number of links to find out more information around COVID-19 and the Delta strain:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/>

<https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/alert-level-3/>

<https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/how-to-get-a-covid-19-vaccination/>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines>

In the meantime, stay safe, be kind and look out for one another.

Ngā mihi,

Raeleen Harré  
Principal



## Alert Level 3 The School Day - Years 7 to 10

Tena Koutou,

### Important Alert Level 3 school procedural information:

- All students must wear a face mask at school.
- Students travelling to school by car **should not be dropped off at school before 8:40am** as we cannot control the mixing of groups prior to that time. A staff member will be at the gate to direct students to the room they will be in during Alert Level 3.
- Please do not congregate at the school gate and always maintain the 2m distancing required of all outdoor activities under Level 3.
- The school office will remain closed. Please call (09) 439 2216 or email if you have any questions: [admin@ruawaicollege.school.nz](mailto:admin@ruawaicollege.school.nz)
- At **pick-up** time, **3:00pm** please maintain a 2m distance and return directly back to your vehicle when collecting your child. **Please do not come onto the school grounds.**
- Limited numbers of staff will be on site to ensure we have the ratio required. Students and staff at school will be grouped together in “bubbles” and there will be no mixing of the bubble/s.
- Students attending school must **bring their own device** to school if you attend. Your child will be doing exactly the same distance learning as the students staying at home.
- A roll will be taken in each “bubble” and we will be maintaining a record of contacts during the day.
- Students cannot attend school if they or someone in the home bubble has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 21 days.
- No student can attend school if they are unwell, especially if they show signs of headaches, muscle fatigue, runny nose, sore throat or a cough.
- Staff will maintain digital contact with all those children engaged in digital and distance learning.
- Bubbles will have designated areas for morning and afternoon breaks. These areas will be monitored by staff.
- There will be no use of sport equipment at school due to Health & Safety hygiene requirements.
- There will be a high level of hygiene practices, as outlined by the Ministry of Health (personal and environmental) so that your child will be as safe as possible at school.
- You will be contacted if your child becomes unwell during the day and they must be collected from the school – you are required to have an emergency contact.
- If a student presents negative behaviours, you will be contacted to come and pick them up as we will not have sufficient staff to manage these types of situations.

*Raeleen Harré*  
*Tumuaki / Principal*