

The Wairoa College staff are looking forward to being back at school and seeing their students. The two key public health principles that support our approach at Alert Level 2 are first to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in our school is infected. During Level 2 we expect all students to be at school: we are open under Level 2. Only those that are unwell in any way should be absent. Please notify the school office of any absences.

The Ministry of Education has worked with the Ministry of Health to provide guidance for schools. Our Health and Safety guidelines are as follows:

### **Maintaining physical distancing where practicable**

While physical distancing is not a requirement in schools, we will be doing our best to keep students from congregating in very large numbers and keeping spaces well-ventilated. We will endeavour to have students socially distanced in classrooms where practically possible

### **Face masks**

Face coverings are not required to be worn in school. The Director General of Health has recommended that children 12 years+ wear a face covering at school – just as older children are required to wear face coverings in some other places. The decision to wear a face covering is up to you and your whānau, whatever your decision it will be respected.

### **Assemblies**

Our Wednesday rotation, Assembly, deans meetings and house meetings are on hold for the moment.

### **Enabling good hygiene practices**

regular washing and drying of hands and good cough and sneeze etiquette remain fundamental to preventing spread of illness such as colds, flu and COVID-19. Regularly washing hands, including before and after using shared equipment.

### **Classroom and learning spaces**

Hand sanitiser will be in every room. Students will sanitise hands when entering and leaving the classroom. Desks and seats will be cleaned and wiped down regularly (includes door handles, computer keyboards). Classroom doors and windows to remain open to reduce contact and allow air flow.

### **Ensuring people with COVID-19 symptoms stay away from school.**

We ask that parents support us with this. If a child becomes unwell while at school they will be sent home immediately. As will any staff member. There is an expectation that they will remain home for at least 48 hours.

### **Keeping track of people that enter and leave our school**

Through our attendance register, timetable and visitor register. Visitors must sign into school at the main office and wear a mask.

No student will be able to leave school grounds unless a caregiver collects them by signing out at the school office. This includes Year 13 students. This includes lunch and interval breaks. This allows us to be able to contact trace if there was a case of Covid-19 in our school.

### **Food and water**

Please bring your own drink bottles. Water fountains will be cordoned off and disabled. There will be no sharing of food and drinks.

Students will be provided with their school lunch. Students will not be allowed to access the canteen at interval or lunch time. Please bring morning tea and snacks if required.

## Other

Please leave scooters, skateboards and balls at home  
School transport will continue

As mentioned in my last Communication the experience of lockdown and distance learning have been markedly different for each of us. There will be an adjustment period as we get classroom learning back up to speed. Our focus will be on re-establishing relationships, routines and expectations.

### As such we will reopen our school as follows

- **Year 7,8,11,12,13** will return to school on **Thursday 9th September. Year 9 and 10 will continue with distance learning on this day.**
- **All students** will be able to attend school on **Friday 10th September**

The **return of school laptops and chromebooks** is essential for us to continue learning programmes at school. Therefore, we appreciate your support in following the programme of return that follows:

- Year 7 and 8 to their teachers Thursday September 9th
- Year 11 Period 1 9 to Hall Thursday September 9th
- Year 12 Period 1 9.30 to Hall Thursday September 9th
- Year 13 Period 2 10.00 to Hall Thursday September 9th
- Year 9 Period 1 9 to Hall Friday September 10th
- Year 10 Period 1 9:30 to Hall Friday September 10th

Please contact me directly if you have any concerns

Jo Vennell

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