



ROSEHILL SCHOOL

Creating Inspiring Pathways for Real Life Success

He waihanga ara whakahihiri, kia angitu ai

28th October 2021

Working towards students returning to school

Kia ora,

I am writing to you following the Government's announcement that plans are underway to support the return to onsite learning for our schools who are in Alert Level 3 areas and to do this in a way that is as safe as possible.

The restrictions of Alert Level 3 and 4 have been a real challenge to the wellbeing of our tamariki and whānau and we have heard from many of you that your tamariki are keen to see their friends and teachers kanohi ki te kanohi.

You can be reassured that any decisions about bringing more children and staff on-site will be done in accordance with strict public health guidance – so what on-site learning will look like will be different than Alert Level 2 or Alert Level 1 settings. For example, this might mean attending school two days a week and learning from home for the other three.

The earliest a return to school will happen is Monday 15 November, and we will provide more information about this closer to the time.

The Auckland Special School Principals are working together to consider the unique needs of our schools and how to create a safe environment for our tamariki and staff. Currently the government is considering students in years 1 to 8 and 11 to 13 returning to school. Because we are structured differently to mainstream schools, we will seek guidance on how this will impact our tamariki who are beyond year 13 or in years 9 and 10. We will keep you updated on developments.

In the meantime, vaccination and testing remains the best thing we can do to keep whānau and our community as safe as possible. COVID-19 is finding those who are unvaccinated in this outbreak.

For this current outbreak (as at 25 October), 224 people have been hospitalised with only 6 (<3%) of these people fully vaccinated. Of the 2,681 cases in the outbreak, 1,984 (74%) had not received one dose of the vaccine (541 were not eligible for vaccination as they were under 12).

We need to look after our most vulnerable people, and it is great to see our community vaccination rates continue to go up. There are also now three million New Zealanders fully vaccinated – which is fantastic news!

Please do encourage your friends and whānau who might be worried about the vaccine to seek good information from health practitioners, so they can make a well-informed decision.

Ngā mihi

Gill Hedley
Tumuaki