

# Tauraroa Area School

[www.tauraroa.school.nz](http://www.tauraroa.school.nz)

13 October 2021

Phone: 432-2643

Kia ora,

As you know, the Government made the early 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 in our community. Today, Minister Hipkins has confirmed we will remain at this level for a further five days - until 11.59pm Monday 18 October.

At Alert Level 3 you legally must stay within your household bubble unless for essential personal movement.

We are therefore open on Monday for *only the small number of children who need to attend*. All our usual safety precautions for Alert Level 3 will be in place. 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 (one metre inside and two metres outside). We will also keep school bubbles to no more than 10 students. These bubbles will not mix with other bubbles.

Students in Years 9-13 are also now required to wear face 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 everyone's safety by keeping your child at home if they are feeling unwell and please do contact your GP or Healthline, to seek advice about getting tested.

Our staff on-site will have been tested for COVID-19 before they get back to work and we are moving toward having 100% of our staff vaccinated – so we are all playing our part in keeping our community safe.

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 authority's 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 will be offering vaccinations at school to all students aged 12 years and older next Thursday, 21 October, if we have moved back to Alert Level 2.

We will continue to support all children who remain learning from home at Levels 3 (and 4), through our distance learning programme. If our current Level 3 lockdown is maintained beyond Monday, we will reinstate our learning and teaching programmes as they were delivered in the Term 2 lockdown. This will

include distributing learning materials and devices as required. An announcement on alert levels will be made on Monday afternoon.

While we know how difficult it is trying to work from home as well as support your child's learning, please keep your child at home if there is an appropriate carer available. For those of you who are essential workers with *no other option for childcare*, we will be able to accommodate your child at school next week.

Please email [ross.mccartney@tauraroa.school.nz](mailto:ross.mccartney@tauraroa.school.nz) by 12:00 noon on Friday, 15 October, if your child is going to attend school under Level 3 conditions next week. Please indicate if bus transportation is required.

We are proud of how our community has responded to this outbreak, but the mahi isn't yet done. Please continue to follow all the alert level requirements including staying at home, getting tested for COVID-19 if you are feeling unwell, and for your own sake and for the health of your whānau, please get vaccinated. I've included some [information about vaccinations](#) to support decision making.

These are the very best things we can do to keep our community as safe as possible and get everyone back to school.

Ngā mihi,

*Grant Burns*

Principal