

CENTENNIAL PARK SCHOOL

“Live Truly”



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30th November 2021

Level 2 Letter # 4

What is this new Traffic Light System?

Kia ora e te whānau,

We feel it is important to keep you updated and informed of what is going on within the education sector and how it may affect your child's learning.

[New COVID-19 Protection \(Traffic Light\) Framework](#)

We thought this letter may help to explain how the new 'Traffic Light' system will work for schools in our region. You may have heard that everyone in Aotearoa will move to the new COVID-19 Traffic Light Framework on Friday 3 December (this Friday).

Our region will be moving to **ORANGE**.

According to the District Health Board and Gov't, they believe the current alert levels system has worked well, with New Zealand having the lowest numbers of cases and hospitalisations in the OECD. While controlled, Delta is in our communities and the strategy now focuses on minimising its impact. The arrival of the new variant Omicron onto our shores may not be too far away and how we prepare now could have an impact on our next steps over the next little while

With 85% of eligible New Zealanders now fully vaccinated, and by mid-December it is expected to be approximately 90%, this allows a careful reopening while continuing to protect New Zealanders.

For some schools this means that they don't have to change the way they are operating classes this year and students can continue to attend those schools onsite. For our school, Te Kura Rautau however, we will remain with learning from home for now due to the high number of positive cases and the connections to some of those whānau with tamariki and staff. We are certain this decision is the safest option with the best interest of our community and whānau in mind.

For next year, and in accordance with advice and support from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, we will be able to have everyone back onsite at Te Kura Rautau for learning from the start of the school year (on February 3rd 2022), regardless of what setting under the new Traffic Light Framework we will be in (Red/Orange/Green). This is good news and means we can plan for an amazing 2022.

Health measures have been in place at kura, and this will continue:

This year and next, health, safety and wellbeing will continue to be a priority for us and the same public health measures you are very familiar with will remain in place:

- good hygiene and cleaning
- contact tracing systems in place
- vaccination requirements for workers (paid and unpaid)
- if you are sick, you must stay home and get tested
- good ventilation.

If our region is to change to **RED** at any stage next year:

- face coverings will be required at school when indoors for students and staff in years 4 – 13
- we will ask that only essential visitors come onsite.

With all these measures in place, public health has confirmed the risk of infection remains low when at school, with households continuing to be where COVID-19 is spreading the most. As noted by Dr Caroline McElnay, Director of Public Health:

Our experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 shows that it does not affect children and teens in the same way it does adults. Children and teens don't become as unwell if they do get infected, and they don't tend to pass the virus on so much as adults when in a classroom setting.

Compared to other places, schools and early learning services are not environments where we have seen significant spread of COVID-19. Household members and work colleagues who are in close contact with people with COVID-19, are the most common sources of transmission.

As a school community, we wish to be proactive and responsible for some of these key decisions that are made and to ensure safety is not compromised. Although Dr Caroline mentions some valid points, our staff will ultimately make the final call as a community of learning to ensure we all remain as safe as we possibly can.

If we do at any stage have someone confirmed with COVID-19 in our kura, we have a plan in place to manage this and will contact you as soon as possible.

If you'd like to learn more about the framework visit [COVID-19 Protection Framework](#).

Other things:

Yesterday, we received a very large shipment of kai from a few different suppliers. Staff will prepare kai packs and contact whānau for either pick up or distribution. There is a very wide range that we are truly grateful of that can be shared with our whānau that have tamariki at our kura. Please contact your child's Kaiako to confirm your supplies.

(so what's in the kai shipment: pumpkin soup; baked beans; fruit salad; milk; nut packs; bolognaise sauce; peanut butter; marmite; fruit pottles; rice; assortment of fresh fruit; snack bars; chicken and vegetable soup)

Ngā manaakitanga

Kevin Ikin
Tumuaki / Principal
Te Kura Rautau / Centennial Park School
Te Kuiti

Life at Orange



Everyone can work and go to school



Take your face covering wherever you go – These are mandatory in most public spaces and encouraged everywhere else



Keep scanning QR codes and record keeping everywhere you go.



Make sure you have your My Vaccine Pass ready to be checked – most places will have restrictions in place



Keep physically distanced where possible



If you have cold or flu symptoms isolate immediately and call Healthline for advice about a test



Get vaccinated if you haven't already – being fully vaccinated opens up new freedoms under the new framework