



Te Kohanga
Primary School
Kia Kaha Kia Toa



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updated
28/01/2022

Covid Safety Plan



Manaakitanga

We show respect,
generosity and care for
each other.



Ako

We are a whānau,
learning from and with
each other.



Titiro Whakamua

We look towards the
future, trying new things
and embracing change.



Ngāwari

We are building resilience
and stamina in our
attitude and effort.



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Introduction

To our Te Kohanga School whānau,

Thank you for your continued support as we learn to adapt and live with the changes that Covid-19 has brought. As a school we continue to develop and improve our plans to support our students while they are at school and at home learning.

To our parents and caregivers. You have played such an important role in supporting your children and our school during lockdowns - thank you so much for your efforts and please know we understand how challenging it has been. We realise some of our tamariki have been able to complete a lot of distance learning at home while for others this has been really difficult but we know they have also spent precious time with their families and have been learning other skills.

We plan to connect with each family at the start of 2022 to hear your experience and take notes from your observation of how your child is developing emotionally and academically.

We need to celebrate the fact that our children never stop learning whether it be gardening, cooking or simply hearing family stories that you have shared with them.

Now, with the summer holidays over and with Omicron in some parts of the community we are preparing for another change. As guided by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education we will provide education under the RED setting of the new COVID Protection Framework (CPF). Our staff are well prepared to deliver face to face learning or should the need arise, learning through distance.

With the increased infectiousness of the Omicron variant it is likely that more distance learning will occur when students and staff need to isolate. Predictions are that there could be up to a 30% absence rate at a peak surge in cases and for a small school like ours this could mean complete closure. We will be contacting each family to check on your internet connections and your access to devices. The Ministry of Education is still able to supply household internet connection to all families who are not connected for free until at least July 2022 and this is likely to extend. For our senior students they will be able to use their school device at home so that they continue to access their learning programs each day. Our students have lost a lot of in-school learning time and we want to make sure 2022 is as productive as we can possibly make it.

We are equipped with a greater knowledge of how to run the school safely and we are committed to doing our part to protect our most vulnerable. With this in mind we would like to share the safety plan with you, as we follow public health recommendations. This document is always in draft form because of the updates we receive from the MOH and MOE and when any changes are made I will share these with you.

Robyn Driver
Principal



[Te Kohanga COVID Safety Plan - 2022](#)

Under 'RED' school is open for face to face instruction for ALL students.

Vaccination

At this point the best way to protect ourselves and each other from severe infection is to get vaccinated. Parents and caregivers now have the opportunity to protect their tamariki aged 5 - 11 against Covid-19 by being immunised with a paediatric formulation of the vaccine. We encourage students aged 5-12 and above to get vaccinated however they do not need to be vaccinated to attend school.

As of Jan 25th 2022, the Port Waikato Community has only an 87% double vaccination rate [MoH] out of the eligible population. Getting vaccinated is a key step to gain more protection against the virus.

This low vaccination rate will mean that our school may need extra measures to keep our staff and tamariki safe.

School and support people who have contact with students are mandated by the MoH to be fully vaccinated by 1 January 2022 and to have their booster shots by March 1st. Only a small number (less than 100 people in New Zealand) qualify for a vaccine exemption.

Parents and caregivers are required to be vaccinated if they are undertaking work at our school, including voluntary work, and may have contact or be present at a time when children and students are also present.

We strongly encourage students who are aged 5-12 years and up to get vaccinated. As of Jan 25th 2022, 19.9% of the eligible population of 5-11 year olds have had their first dose and 92.3% of 12-18 year olds their second.

Source: Ministry of Health

Health & Safety

Health and Safety Strategies

Te Kohanga follows the health guidelines [MoH] with clear procedures to enable us to operate safely and reduce the spread of Covid-19. These include, staying home if unwell, wearing masks, good ventilation, regular hand washing and physical distancing. We ask that any staff
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member, caregiver or child who feels even mildly unwell stays home. Anyone who becomes unwell during the day will be sent home. Please ensure the school has up to date emergency contact details. Under the RED settings no non-essential visitors on site.

Over the past 6 months, scientists, public health officials and school leaders have learned a lot about what risk mitigation strategies have been most effective in reducing the spread of Covid-19. We are guided by the MoH and MoE and acknowledge that as conditions change such as the Omicron variant being in NZ so can the guidelines.



Visitors on Site

Under RED phase there are to be no non essential visitors on site which will include most parents. This means if you drop your child off please remain at the gate when they come in.

This is even more important for our school as Port Waikato has a much lower than average vaccination rate compared to the rest of the Counties Manukau DHB

New Families and needing the office to pay for things.

You may come into school to enrol or help settle your child on their first day. Classes will be encouraged to start their day with an activity outside so that parents do not need to enter the classroom.

Where possible our office staff (Linda) can email you an invoice for new uniforms or stationery and you can pay for this online instead of coming in.



Masks Indoors and Outdoors

In general, masks should be worn whenever you can. Masks, not face coverings are acceptable at the RED setting. With the Omicron variant the government now recommends that masks be medical grade (e.g a Type IIR/level 2 mask or above) and staff must wear these.



RED Setting

- At school all staff to wear a recommended medical grade mask (see above) when indoors and in close contact with others outdoors
- Mask wearing occurs indoors or when in close contact with others outdoors
- Year 4 students and up must wear a mask indoors
- Years 1-3 students masks are encouraged
- Eating outdoors will occur each day
- We will have a supply of masks available should anyone forget one
- Public and school transport requires face coverings to be worn. This is mandatory for year 4 up but we expect our year 1-3 students to wear a mask on the bus to protect themselves and others.

ORANGE Setting

- Masks are encouraged indoors at school
- Masks are required on school transport for those in year 4 up. Year 1-3 are encouraged to continue wearing them on the bus.

GREEN Setting

- Masks are encouraged but not required.



Stay Home If You Are Sick

Play it safe. Stay home if you're feeling unwell even if it is mild. Don't come to school and keep unwell children home from school or early childhood education.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, get a test and remain at home until a negative result is received and they are symptom free for 24 hours.

- Staff will observe children on arrival, checking for symptoms. Those who present as unwell will have it arranged to be picked up.
- If a student becomes unwell at school, they will be taken by their teacher to an outdoor area. The office will notify the parents/caregivers to come and pick the child up and discuss where that place will be.
- If a teacher becomes unwell at school they will self isolate in the sick bay or in their car until we can arrange safe transport for them home.



- If a child or staff member has been unwell, stay home and get tested. We require them to stay home for at least 24 hours after their symptoms have gone, then they can return to school.

Use Basic Hygiene



Wash Hands

Washing hands has been a good strategy in maintaining a healthy environment.

To promote good practice we will:

Teach good hand washing technique

- **Wash your hands with soap and water often** (for at least 20 seconds) and dry thoroughly. Use an alcohol-based sanitiser and rub hands together if soap and water is unavailable.
 - Encourage hand washing before and after eating, and after going to the bathroom
 - Encourage hand washing before and after outdoor play
 - Each class will have hand washing supplies and hand sanitising stations will be available throughout the school.
- **Coughing or sneezing into your elbow** or cover your mouth and nose with tissues. Put them in a bin immediately.
- **Avoid touching your face**, including your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean. Surfaces may have infectious droplets.



Cleaning and Disinfection

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 has a fragile outer membrane so it only survives on surfaces for a limited amount of time, and it is easy to kill through effective cleaning and disinfection using regular cleaning and disinfecting products.

Wiping of tables and door handles will take place throughout the day in particular for surfaces touched more often. This is managed by teaching staff within their classroom.

Toilets are cleaned daily by school staff or our contracted cleaners.



Teachers are encouraged to keep their classrooms tidy with no clutter on desks. This allows for easy cleaning of high use surfaces.

- Should there be a high risk situation (suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19) we would follow MoH guidelines. We are no longer required to do a whole school deep clean given what is now known about the virus.



Improve Ventilation

Our school has a modern, high spec air conditioning unit throughout the main classrooms. However staff will open all windows in their classrooms throughout the day as this allows for greater flow and no recycling of air.

The MoE are distributing CO2 monitors to all state schools from the start of term as part of a classroom self assessment process from which we will take action.

During elevated times of Covid transmission we are aware that being outdoors is better. We are recommending that teachers plan to use school outdoor spaces and our local environment. We will continue to evaluate risk around the community and balance this in our decision making.



Transport on the Bus

Mask wearing on the bus aligns with public transport requirements which is for year 4 up.

However, we encourage and expect our year 1-3 students to wear a mask on the bus to and from school as well for the protection of themselves, their friends and our driver.



Physical Distancing & Groupings

The virus that causes COVID-19 is mostly spread in particles that escape from an infected person's mouth or nose when they breathe, speak, cough, sneeze or sing.

The risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 increases the closer you are to a person and the longer you are close to that person. The risk is highest in crowded and poorly ventilated indoor spaces, and is lower outside, where there are fewer people, and when you are further away from others.

To avoid infection, follow physical social distancing guidelines – by keeping your distance when outside your home.

RED Setting

- Students will be grouped by class and keeping a 1-metre distance between groups is in place.
- Students do not need to socially distance within their classroom though teachers will spread activities out where possible.
- Large groups of students will not be brought together indoors
- Pick ups and drops will occur from the gates
- Whenever possible groups will not intermingle.

ORANGE Setting

- Staff can work across more than one group
- Staff such as music teachers and relief teachers can work across more than one school

E.O.T.C (Education outside the classroom)

With careful planning, education outside the classroom can go ahead at the **RED setting**.

Curriculum related services will be able to be provided under a number of conditions:

- staff delivering the service are vaccinated
- the activity is in a defined space

Further guidance is being developed.



Contact Tracing Plan

Record your movements. If cases of COVID-19 are confirmed, we need to stop the spread. Keeping a record of your movements helps the Ministry of Health to do contact tracing quickly and efficiently.

Contact tracing and case management will continue to be very important with contacts being identified, self-isolating and getting tested.

The NZ COVID Tracer is a Ministry of Health app that supports fast and efficient contact tracing by creating a digital diary of the places you visit.

Te Kohanga School has our QR codes displayed prominently on our main entrances/exits and all staff and essential people on-site need to sign in.

In addition to scanning into the school:

- All staff or support staff members on-site need to sign in using the tablet at the main reception desk
- Staff need to keep an accurate attendance register of students in attendance at school
- Staff, parents and caregivers, when your contact details change, please email admin@tekohanga.school.nz or phone 09 232 8881 to update your details.

Infectious Case - Contract Tracing

The school will receive guidance and resources on how to manage an infectious case. The school will work with a designated person from the MOE to risk assess and identify close and casual contacts. The timeliness of our ability to work through the steps below will be determined by a conscientious effort to follow protocol. Contact details, especially emails and phone numbers, need to be up to date within our school system.



Distance Learning

The government has announced three phases of its approach to manage the Omicron variant. We are currently in phase 1 where school will operate as normal.

If cases begin to move into our area or school it is likely we will move to a surge model very quickly where home learning becomes a possibility.

In Phase One

Teaching staff will be preparing home learning packs in readiness for immediate delivery should we have students/classes that need to self isolate.

Any individual students who need to self isolate will have home learning delivered to them and have daily zoom lessons with Whaea Anna or another teacher.

Administrative staff will be ensuring we have correct contact details and understand your wifi and device capabilities.

In Phase Two or Three

Classes that must isolate at home for 10 days (minimum)

On Day One there will be no distance learning online. Teachers/staff will use this day to deliver packs and devices.

Day Two on. Daily class zooms or group reading/phonics will occur. Please look carefully at our school facebook page or your child's email for times.

If your child is sick with Omicron they are not expected to complete any home learning.

If a teacher is sick with Omicron they will not be leading any zoom sessions and another staff member will take these if possible.



COVID-19

Omicron in the community: what this means for you

January 2022

Phases for response to Omicron

	Phase One <i>There are some cases in the community but we continue to stamp it out</i>	Phase Two <i>Cases have spread in the community so we need to minimise and slow further spread and assist our vulnerable communities</i>	Phase Three <i>There are thousands of cases per day: most people will self-manage and health and social services focus on families and communities that have the highest needs</i>
Things you can do to protect yourself at ALL phases:	Get your COVID Booster shot 5-11 year olds first vaccination	Continue to Mask. Scan and Pass wherever you go	Good hygiene, physical distancing and stay home if unwell
 Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCR test for people that have symptoms and close contacts at GP or Community Testing Centre PCR testing for international arrivals Find testing sites closest to you here: Healthpoint.co.nz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) may be used in addition to PCR testing for symptomatic people and close contacts 'Test to return' if needed for asymptomatic healthcare and critical workforce who are close contacts using RATs. PCR testing to confirm diagnosis if positive RAT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to so many cases per day, focus of PCR testing is on priority populations Symptomatic people or priority populations may use a RAT for diagnosis RATs available at GPs, Pharmacies, Community Testing Centres or workplaces for symptomatic or critical workers 'Test to return' for asymptomatic healthcare and critical workforce who are close contacts using RATs.
 Case investigation and contact tracing	<p>Cases contacted as usual.</p> <p>Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified via positive PCR test Notified by phone call and phone based case investigation <p>Contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active management of close contacts Close contacts notified by phone call Push notifications (QR scanning), Bluetooth and locations of interest used to identify contacts. 	<p>Digital technology is utilised more as cases grow – text via mobile phone and information via email. Support for those not digitally enabled.</p> <p>Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified via positive PCR test Notified by text and directed to online self-investigation Self-investigation tool increasingly targeting high-risk exposures (events or locations) Phone based interviews where required Symptomatic household contacts will become a probable case for management purposes. <p>Contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular communication with household contacts Close contacts notified via text, directed to website, test on day 5 (non-household contacts self-manage) Push notifications (QR scanning), Bluetooth and Locations of Interest used to identify contacts 'Test to return' for critical infrastructure workers if needed. 	<p>Digital technology continues – a self-serve model – with cases supported to self-notify close contacts. Focus on support for those not digitally enabled.</p> <p>Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified via positive PCR, RATs or symptoms Notified by text and directed to online self-investigation tool Self-investigation tool targets very high-risk exposures, narrowing the numbers of contacts identified Symptomatic household contacts a probable case, test not required. <p>Contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contacts automatically notified from online self-investigation and option for cases to self-notify their contacts. Only highest risk contacts will be traced and required to isolate Limited use of push notifications, locations of interest or Bluetooth 'Test to return' for contacts who are health and critical infrastructure workers.
 Isolation & Quarantine	<p>Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate for 14 days <p>Contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate for 10 days Extra support in place for health and critical workforces. 	<p>Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate for 10 days <p>Contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate for 7 days Extra support in place for health and critical workforces. 	<p>Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate for 10 days <p>Contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate for 7 days Extra support in place for health and critical workforces.
 Health and social support - Care in the Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin shift to self-service - text/online Some positive cases using self-service tools, such as online contact forms Clinical care will be delivered by primary care teams, supported by the local care coordination hub. All steps taken to support positive cases to isolate in their usual place of residence, with alternative accommodation options across the regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases using self-service where possible, ensure those with greatest need are being met Support by local care coordination hub for those with a need for ongoing clinical care. Other people with lower clinical risks, may contact external providers. Support for most positive cases to isolate in their usual place of residence. Alternative accommodation options across the regions are still available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of positive cases are self-management. Clinical care is focused on anyone with high-needs Wraparound health and welfare support services will focus on those who need it most Support for positive cases to isolate in their usual place of residence and unlikely there will be alternative accommodation capacity available for cases that are unable to safely isolate at home.