



Adventure School

24 July 2022

Masking up for the start of Term 3

“In previous years we have found there is an increase in winter illnesses in schools at the start of Term 3 as students bring back infections after travelling and socialising during the holidays. This year cases of COVID-19 are increasing in most parts of the country, and we are also seeing high numbers of other winter illnesses.

For the start of Term 3, 2022, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health strongly recommend that all schools and kura amend their mask policy for the first four weeks of term (up to August 19th) to require mask wearing in all indoor settings (where it will not have a significant impact on teaching and learning – see below) for students in Years 4 and above.

This recommendation does not include any situation where mask wearing might not be practicable, such as while:

- eating and drinking,
- playing certain musical instruments,
- indoor sport, where it will have a significant impact on teaching and learning (for example, students with particular learning needs),
- certain activities such as singing or drama performance,
- PE / fitness / sports

Wearing masks can reduce new cases of the virus by as much as 53%. It works alongside other measures including vaccination, good ventilation, staying home when sick, and hand washing and other hygiene measures, to protect our students and staff.

[Keep up healthy habits – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

Adult-sized masks can generally be adjusted to fit older children by tying knots in the ear loops. Unite Against COVID-19 shows how to do this:

[How to wear a face mask safely – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

We know that that some of our tamariki/ākonga are exempt from wearing a mask. If they have an exemption card or a letter from their health provider, or we have agreed that mask wearing is not practicable for them, we will support them to not wear a mask.

[Apply for a face mask exemption pass – Unite Against COVID-19 “](#)

The notice above is a communication from the Ministry. In the interests of transparency, it is important parents and caregivers understand that mask wearing is a recommendation and not a mandate, therefore we can only encourage it, we do not have the power to enforce it. Tamariki who are not wearing masks cannot be forced to and cannot be sanctioned.

If students have forgotten a mask and wish to wear one or cannot bring a mask from home the school does have a supply of masks.

Thank you for your support in protecting our school community.

Noho ora mai

W. John Wootton
Principal (for two more weeks)