

# Welcome to 2022!

26/01/2022 by Karen Poole

---

Kiā ora e te whānau

Ngā mihi o te tau hou! Happy New Year!

Welcome back after we hope has been a wonderful summer for your whānau.

The Tawhai team is feeling refreshed and ready to go for the 2022 year and can't wait to see all our tamariki back at school.

In regard to COVID-19 we have moved fully into the new traffic light framework for all our school and kura activities and events this year. We are working through the guidance we received from the MOE last night and will provide more specific details prior to the start of school on **Thursday 3 February**. It is good to know that at Red setting, we are able to support everyone learning onsite.



In the meantime, please take the time to read the following information.

## Face Coverings

We already know that all students Year 4 and above and staff are required to wear a face mask indoors. Please ensure your child has a suitable mask ready to bring to school. Here is information and a video that may help explain to young children how to safely put a mask on and remove it. [Video and article](#)

## Vaccination for 5 - 11 year olds

Vaccination including a booster shot, remains an important tool to help prevent the most serious harm from the COVID-19 virus. If children and young adults who have been vaccinated do develop COVID-19, they are far less likely to get seriously ill and less likely to transmit the virus to others.

The free 5 to 11 year old vaccination programme is now underway and more than 100,000 children in New Zealand have had their first dose.

There is some helpful information available to support you on the [Unite Against COVID-19 website](#) including [How to book a vaccine for your five – 11 year old](#) and [some great videos](#) on the Kids Health page that can support you to talk to your tamariki about the COVID-19 vaccine.

### **Managing cases in our school**

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing a physical onsite school and moving to distance learning for everyone. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

Please make sure your contact details we have on file are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

### **Getting ready to return to school**

The Ministry of Education has some helpful information on their [Parents and Whānau website](#) to support your tamariki to get back to school. There is also a very important reminder about how you can [take care of yourself](#).

While this might all feel a little overwhelming at times, we know that all these measures will help our children return to school, reconnect with whānau and friends and do what they enjoy.

We are also here to help. Please get in touch if you have any concerns or need help in any way [karen@tawhai.school.nz](mailto:karen@tawhai.school.nz)

See you soon!

Ngā mihi nui

Karen Poole