

Pinehurst in the Covid Protection Framework



Our place

Term 1, 2022

Pinehurst School opens to all students on February 1st, 2022. We are currently at “Orange” on the “Covid-19 Protection Framework” (the traffic lights system), and the rules we currently have in place for the start of term are appropriate for this level.

Please note: these rules may change between now and the start of term if the Covid-19 situation changes. This document will be updated and changed as and when needed.

By February 1st, every child in the school (with a few exceptions) will have had the chance to receive at least one shot of the Covid-19 vaccine. It is NOT mandatory for students to be vaccinated.

Our rules are appropriate for an environment where all adults are fully-vaccinated, and where most students are vaccinated.

There will be no formal “bubbles” in the school, though there will be restrictions on larger gatherings, especially when they are held indoors.

All students are expected to be learning in school. All staff will be in school. We will be running a full curriculum and most of our co-curricular programme.

We will be offering *some* online learning for students who fit one of the following categories:

1. Students who are unable to be vaccinated because of their age or because they are immuno-compromised;
2. Students who have to self-isolate, either because they have tested positive for Covid-19, or because they have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19;
3. Students who are overseas and are unable to return to NZ.

The type of online learning will be different according to age and need.

The general rule that always applies:

- If a child or adult has any cold or flu symptoms, or is unwell in any way, they are stay home until their symptoms have gone, and have a Covid-19 test if appropriate. **Nobody who is unwell in any way can be on the school site.**

Face Masks:

- Masks will be required for students in Years 3 to 13 when they are inside school buildings. This includes classrooms and all other indoor spaces with the exception of the Gym and the Arena when students are doing physical activity.
- Masks will not be required for students in Years 3 to 13 when they are outside.

- Masks will not be required for students in Years 0 to 2. They are, though, encouraged.
- Masks will be required for all teachers and for all adults working with students when they are inside school buildings. This applies to all inside spaces, without exception.
- In all staff meetings, all staff are required to wear a face mask. When staff meet in small groups, or are working in their own workspaces, they must wear a mask if they are unable to maintain a two-metre distance from other staff. In all other spaces, masks must be worn indoors unless staff are seated for the purpose of eating and drinking.
- Staff are not required to wear masks when they are outside.
- All visitors to the school, including parents, must wear a mask at all times.

Tests

- All staff are required to record a negative Covid-19 test (preferably PCR) between January 24th and 27th.
- The school has purchased Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT), and these will be used for three purposes:
 - As part of a screening process, prior to any overnight trips or camps. All staff and supporting adults will be required to record a negative test result no more than 24 hours before departure.
 - If a child presents at school with any relevant symptoms, we may – with a parent’s permission – test the child.
 - In the event of an exposure at school, we may test potential contacts – with parents’ permission – as a rapid first response before PCR tests are undertaken.
- RATs may be used in other circumstances should they be required.

Access to the school, signing-in and vaccine certificates:

- Parents and visitors are not permitted on the school site beyond the front or back car parks, except if they are picking up children in the Primary School at the end of the day or are escorted by a member of staff.
- Parents of College students picking up their children should stay in the car park area and wait for their child there.
- Parents of students starting school as New Entrants can escort their children to their classrooms for the first two weeks of term.
- All staff must sign in with the “WOL” app when they come onto the school site. This applies to all staff at all times and must be completed daily.
- All staff, parents and visitors must sign in on the Covid app when they come onto the school site. This includes parents who are picking up their child at the end of the day. This also includes any external adults who work with students. If parents stay in their cars, they do not need to sign in.
- All staff are fully-vaccinated, and follow Government mandates on vaccination according to the School’s policy. Vaccinations must be maintained in line with Government requirements. Staff are required to ensure that the record of vaccination we hold is up to date.
- All visitors and parents who wish to meet with a member of staff in person or to enter the Uniform Shop **must** be fully-vaccinated. This will be checked on entry to Reception or in the Uniform Shop. This requirement does not apply if a parent is picking something up from Reception only or if they are picking up their child at the end of the day.
- If an unvaccinated parent wishes to meet with a member of staff, we will arrange an online meeting at a mutually convenient time.

In classrooms:

- All classrooms will have at least one window or door open on each side of the room at all times to ensure reasonable air circulation. This will also apply to offices and other spaces where possible.
- All rooms in which students are present will have a working air purifier.
- All students will sanitise hands on entry to their classroom and at regular intervals.
- All tables and chairs will be wiped down at the end of each lesson or session (not less frequently than once every two hours).
- There will be no physical distancing required inside classrooms, as this is not practical.
- A reminder that masks must be worn by all students and staff in Year 3 upwards in all classrooms and at all times.
- Normal timetables will operate.

Drop-off and pick-up:

- Before School Care will run as usual. It will be open from 7.30 am until 8.15 am daily for students in Years 1-6.
- Primary classrooms will be open and supervised from 8.15 am daily.
- College classrooms will be open from 8.00 am. College students are permitted in school from 7.30 am. They can wait outside, in classrooms, or in the Library, which opens at 7.30 am. Please note that College students are not supervised until 8.00 am.
- At the end of the day, parents must enter the school grounds at 3.15 pm, pick up their child and leave immediately. Children will stay in their classes until they are picked up. Parents are not able to enter classrooms without a prior appointment.
- After-school care will operate as usual, open between 3.15 and 5.30 pm and run by Youthtown.
- All adults must sign in on the Covid-19 app when entering the school grounds. This includes the car park if parents leave their cars. This also includes when they are picking up children after school hours or at any other time at all they are on the school site.

Buses

- Masks are mandatory for everyone of all ages on school buses (and all public transport).
- All students can use the school buses.

Assemblies, Sports and other activities

- All training, games and matches will take place as they usually do.
- All coaches, whether a member of the School's staff, or someone who has been employed externally, are fully-vaccinated. A register is kept of their vaccination status.
- All external facilities used by the school will only employ fully-vaccinated staff, and have a "vaccine certificate only" policy in place.
- Parents will not be permitted to watch in-school practices.
- College sports will go ahead. It has been agreed by all schools that students must be fully-vaccinated to take part in College sports, and we will apply that policy with our own students. All venues will be "vaccine certificate only" venues.

- Primary games are expected to go ahead as well. All venues will be “vaccine certificate only” venues.
- Music, drama and other co-curricular activities will run as normal, and external providers will be able to operate on the school site. All adults, and young people aged 12 or more, will be fully-vaccinated, and all school rules on mask-wearing and room ventilation will apply.
- Assemblies and other large gatherings of students will be kept to an absolute minimum. Where they must take place, strict mask-wearing, as well as additional physical distancing measures, will be put in place. We are likely to run only Year Group Assemblies in person when we are at Red or Orange on the Covid-19 Protection Framework.

Events and Gatherings

- All events involving parents and other adults are “vaccine certificate only” events.
- The School will operate as a “hospitality” venue, following all Government mandates, when it runs an event for adults outside school hours.
- Wherever possible, events will be held outdoors. If this is not possible, ventilation rules and capacity restrictions will apply.

Contractors

- All contractors on the school site, regardless of whether they have direct contact with students or staff, will be fully-vaccinated.
- College 5 / Pinehurst Theatre contractors will remain exclusively within the designated construction site.

Alex Reed
20th January 2022