

23 March 2022

Kia ora koutou

I hope the day's gone well for you. I'm going to cut to the chase today, as I wanted to explain the potential significance of today's announcement as well as give you our regular update.

The Prime Minister announced a few changes today, including:

- Vaccine passes will not be required from April 5th.
- Vaccine mandates will not be in force in education from April 5th.
- QR code scanning will no longer be required from this weekend.
- Outdoor gatherings have no limits, even at 'Red'
- Indoor gatherings can include up to 200 people at 'Red'

For the school, this means the following changes:

1. We will no longer be requiring parents to show their vaccine pass when they come into school.
2. The Board will, on March 30th, consider whether to change or remove their policy on mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations for staff (it remains in force unless and until they change it).
3. We will no longer require QR scanning when you come into school from next week, though we still encourage it.

We are not going to be making any other changes at this point. While we are at 'Red', our policies on mask-wearing, large gatherings and everything else that we currently have in place will stay the same.

We will review these settings for the start of Term 2, and we will let you know if the Board changes its policy on mandatory vaccinations. Let me know if you have any questions at all about any part of this.

New Cases

There has been one new case in the last 24 hours. A Year 10 girl tested a weak positive last night, and may have been infectious in school on Monday and Tuesday. She has mild symptoms. We have tested all those who are close contacts over the last two days, and all tests were negative. We will test the same students again tomorrow morning.

Rapid Antigen Tests

We tested again all the Year 2 students who were in the same class as the student who tested positive on Tuesday morning. All tests were negative.

We tested the Year 10 students who were close contacts of the girl who tested positive last night. All tests were negative.

We also tested a small number of returning students and staff, all of whom tested negative.

We will test all of the Year 10 students we tested today once again tomorrow morning.

Many thanks once again for all of your support.

Ngā mihi,
Alex.

Alex Reed

Executive Principal

Pinehurst School

a: 75 Bush Road, Albany, Auckland 0632, NZ

t: +64 (0)9 414 0960 EXT 603

m: +64 (0)21 194 8584

e: Alex.Reed@pinehurst.school.nz