



63 Duncan Street,
P. O. Box 41
Ward,
Marlborough 7285

Phone: +64 (03) 575 6837
Fax: +64 (03) 575 6415
Email: office@ward.school.nz
Web: www.ward.school.nz

Friday the 15th of October 2021

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers of Ward School,

The holidays have hopefully provided you and your whanau a change of pace and time to get all those lambs sorted! We are looking forward to welcoming back the tamariki under alert level 2 and with new COVID 19 guidelines in place. Our focus is on the well-being of our tamariki and we want them to be able to take part in and enjoy 'normal' school activities. To this end, we are looking forward to Pet Day and the Book Fair next week and Year 7 & 8 Technology on Monday the 18th of October.

This letter is to update you on COVID vaccinations and remind you of alert level changes and expectations. We are working hard to adhere to all the Government guidelines and need your support to ensure that this happens.

Vaccinations

The response by New Zealanders to this latest outbreak has been strong, with high rates of testing and more and more people getting vaccinated.

If we were to have a case of COVID-19 in our school, public health authorities will want to know if we are a school with a high vaccination rate. This information will then be used as part of the local health authority's risk assessment. The more highly vaccinated we are (staff and eligible students), the less likely it will be that we will have to close down for a long period of time, or we might not need to close at all. We are also doing our part by working toward all our staff being vaccinated.

We will therefore need to know if your child has had their first or second vaccine dose or is exempted from being vaccinated. This information will be held by us in accordance with the Privacy Act and will only be shared with public health authorities.

We are therefore getting our data collection system in place and will get in touch with you again very soon. More than 5.7 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine have now been given in New Zealand (as of 7 October 2021):

- 53 percent are fully vaccinated (2 doses) = 2.2 million New Zealanders
- 81 percent have had their first dose = 3.4 million New Zealanders

While the signs are really pleasing, clearly the job isn't done. Because of this, we've [attached information](#) to help support everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. Tomorrow is Super Saturday and there are nationwide events to get involved in and additional vaccination information available. Check out the [Super Saturday events here](#).



The two best things we can do keep our community as safe as possible is to get tested if we are feeling unwell and get everyone who is eligible vaccinated, those aged 12 and over.

Bus Travel for students 12 years or older

Students who are 12 years old or older are now required to wear a mask when traveling on all buses, including Waka Kura and the Technology bus. Please discuss this with your child and provide them with a mask.

We look forward to seeing you next Monday and are excited about our Term 4 programme. A Pet Day update and term newsletters will be out next week.

If you have any questions about any information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ngā mihi nui,
Carey Huria - Principal/Tumuaki
John Hickman - Presiding Member, Ward School Board of Trustees



Ward School LEVEL 2: HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN INFORMATION

What Ward School looks like at Alert Level 2. Please note that these procedures have been developed with the safety of staff and students in mind. Under Alert Level 2 we will continue to follow the guidelines set out in the Ward School Pandemic Plan but will continue to **manage the areas identified below**. While I know many of you will be anxious at this time, we will ensure that school is the safest possible place for your children to be outside of your family/whānau bubbles. At all times we will be following the most up-to-date advice from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and we expect everyone to comply.

Classrooms	Pick up/Drop Off and Teacher Meetings	Staffing Class Bubbles
<p>Under Alert Level 2 hand <u>sanitiser</u> will be provided in every classroom. Hand sanitiser stations will be set up at the designated entry and exit points of each classroom and Students and Staff will use this as they enter or exit a room. Additional disinfectant/cloth will be available in classrooms for children and teachers to <u>sanitise</u> spaces throughout the school day as required. Many students have their own stationery, supplies <u>and</u> devices and will be encouraged not to share this.</p> <p>Rock Pool students: Will enter and leave the school through the student entrance leaving their shoes on the shoe shelf. The use of toilets will be through the hall doors when students are in class or the outside doors if at play. Playtime equipment will be kept in a box and cleaned at the end of the day. Soft material play equipment will not be used in Rock Pool. During group/mat time we will monitor and encourage social distancing. Sanitiser will be available at entry points to the classroom.</p> <p>Reef students: Will enter the classroom through the separate classroom door at the back of the classroom. As usual, unless it is raining they will walk outside to access the toilet, Room 2 and the Library. Sanitizer will be available at entry points to the classroom.</p>	<p>Under <u>Alert</u> Level 2 parents and caregivers will not be allowed on site. We wish to encourage a <u>drop off</u> and <u>pick up</u> only approach to restrict the number of 'adults on-site'. Where possible there should be one person designated for pick up and drop off.</p> <p>Students will not be allowed to enter before 8:25am. All students who are dropped off at the school gate are asked to arrive between 8.30 and 8.45am, ready for a 8.50am start.</p> <p>Please be respectful of this as it is the 'most likely' chance of Covid-19 entering the school grounds.</p> <p>If you do wish or need to come <u>on site</u> please email or phone your classroom teacher. If this can not be done due to unforeseen circumstances please come to the school office to scan in and register as a visitor.</p>	<p>There is no bubble concept at Alert Level 2 so there are no restrictions on groups of students mixing with others on site.</p> <p>Physical Distancing – Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease.</p> <p>Children, young people and staff should be far enough away from each other so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, coupled with good hygiene practices and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. There does not need to be a specific measurement but where practicable <u>1 metre</u> should be used as a guide, particularly between adults.</p>
Staffroom	In the playground	Managing Attendance
<p>Staff <u>are</u> expected to maintain a minimum of 1m physical distance at all times including in the staffroom.</p> <p>Cups, spoons <u>etc.</u> to be personally handled into the dishwasher.</p> <p>Soap and <u>sanitiser</u> will be provided in the staffroom.</p> <p>Disinfectant/<u>wipes</u> available to be used on shared keypads (e.g. photocopier and alarm).</p> <p>Masks are available for those who choose to use them.</p>	<p>Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment including playgrounds but hygiene practice should be observed before and after playing with equipment.</p> <p>Drinking fountains will not be available but students are encouraged to bring a named drink bottle to school each day.</p> <p>Morning Tea and Lunch eating: Students will maintain social distancing when in eating groups. No more than 4 students are to sit at picnic tables. If older Reef students are sitting in groups they need to ensure 1-metre social distancing is maintained.</p>	<p>Students and staff will not attend if they are unwell. It is recommended that students and staff who become unwell during the school day, be sent home and have a Covid-19 test. All results should be shared with the school as soon as they are available.</p> <p>In <u>schools</u> our contact tracing is a combination of timetable, attendance register and visitor register. These provide good information to health authorities if they need to contact people that might be considered a close contact of a confirmed <u>case</u>, and determine whether they will need to self-isolate.</p> <p>This includes recording who the adults on-site are in close contact with as well as recording any visitors to the site, including parents and caregivers.</p>
Cleaning and Hygiene	Buses	Sharing Learning and Reporting to Parents
<p>The toilets will be cleaned regularly. Students and staff will use <u>hand sanitiser</u> when opening and closing all doors.</p> <p>Cleaner will complete daily cleans in line with the Ministry of Health guidelines.</p> <p>In an <u>Alert Level 2</u> we will continue to model good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing <u>and</u> drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.</p>	<p>The Waka Kura Bus will be operating in accordance to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education.</p> <p>Face coverings are required to be worn by students aged 12 and over while on ALL school transport including Waka Kura and the technology bus.</p> <p>Students will have to hand <u>sanitise</u> on boarding the bus.</p> <p>Bus lists are to be kept for contact tracing.</p>	<p>At Alert Level 2 their wellbeing will be our number one priority before any academic learning and assessment <u>takes</u> place.</p> <p>Any EOTC and school evnets will be held in line with Level 2 guidelines: All attendees MUST sign the contact tracing register.</p> <p>Masks must be worn if indoors.</p> <p>1 metre distance must be maintained.</p> <p>Group size will be limited as per Ministry of Health Guidelines.</p>