

Date: 13.9.22

Covid-19 Update - Tuesday 13th September, 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

You will be aware that New Zealand has now moved to a new, long-term approach to Covid-19, as at 11.59pm, Monday 12th September. Following the changes that were announced by the Government yesterday, there are some updates to school procedures and protocols and we ask that you please read the following information carefully to ensure you have the most up to date information.

Isolation Requirements:

Anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 must continue to complete a **7 DAY** isolation period, with Day 0 as the first day of symptoms or the day of a positive test, whichever comes first.

Household contacts who have no symptoms, DO NOT need to isolate, but should **test daily for 5 DAYS** and, if negative, can continue to attend school/work as normal.

Mask Wearing:

There is no longer a requirement for masks to be worn in schools, however we recognise that mask wearing continues to provide a level of protection and that every family's circumstances are different. We will continue to respect the personal decision made by any member of our school community to wear a mask - this includes staff, students, parents and family members.

Aside from Covid-19, we have experienced a much higher than normal season of illness this year, including colds, flu, tummy bugs etc. We continue to remind families to monitor for any symptoms of illness and keep children home if they are sick, to allow them time to recover and to prevent the spread of illness here at school.

All other recommended public health measures will stay in place, as we know they reduce the spread of infectious illnesses including Covid-19. These include ensuring our indoor spaces are well-ventilated, maintaining good hand-hygiene, encouraging everyone to cough or sneeze into elbows and, most importantly staying home and getting tested if you have any Covid-19 symptoms.

We thank you for your ongoing support in protecting our school community.

General Reminders:

If your child is absent from school, please make sure to notify us.

We remind families to please be vigilant in monitoring for any symptoms and, if in doubt at all, please keep your child at home and arrange to have them tested.

Children who come to school and are unwell, will be sent home.

What you need to do

- You and your whānau should watch for symptoms
- If any symptoms develop, get tested immediately
- If your whānau hasn't been vaccinated, please do so as soon as possible. You can book on-line at bookmyvaccine.nz or by calling 0800 28 29 26. It's free.

What we're doing

- The Gardens School will stay open
- We have appropriate public health measures and cleaning procedures in place

Symptoms of COVID-19

- A new or worsening cough
- Sneezing and runny nose
- A fever
- Temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath

Less common symptoms include diarrhoea, headache, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, malaise, chest pain, abdominal pain, joint pain, or confusion/irritability.

For more information, go to <https://covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/about-covid-19/covid-19-symptoms/>

Please contact Susannah Fowler, Principal principal@thegardens.school.nz if you have any questions.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Susannah Fowler, Principal