



St Mark's School

Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

13 September 2022

Kia ora everyone

New long-term strategy for COVID-19

You'll be aware that New Zealand has moved to a new, long-term approach to COVID-19. These changes have been made based on public health advice and as you know as our school has strictly followed all public health advice and requirements and reflect these changes in our operations.

This new approach results in two key changes to the way we currently operate.

The **first change** is that household contacts of a person with COVID-19 do not need to isolate, but instead are asked to complete a RAT test each day, for five days. Therefore, ākonga/students and kaiako/staff who are household contacts but test negative and do not have COVID-19 symptoms, should continue to attend **with the expectation that they will test for Covid-19 for 5 concurrent days.**

Information on how to get RAT kits can be found here: [Request a RAT– Ministry of Health](#)

The **second change** is that mask wearing is no longer required or strongly recommended by the Ministry of Education in schools. Whilst we will implement this change, we will support those ākonga/students, whānau/families and Kaiako/teachers and staff whose preference it is to continue to wear masks while indoors at school. Whilst there is no requirement to wear a mask at school, we are mindful that for many families/whānau this is a practice they may choose to continue. At no time will an individual be asked to remove a mask if that is their preference.

All the 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 they have COVID-19 symptoms.

If you have any questions regarding the changes announced and their application at school, please contact your **classroom teacher** in the first instance.

Thank you for your ongoing support in protecting our community.

Noho ora mai

Averil Worner
Tumuaki/Principal
St Mark's School