



NAENAE COLLEGE

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14 September 2022

Kia ora e te whānau

I am writing to you to update you regarding the Governments advice to schools regarding the long term approach to COVID-19.

New long-term strategy for COVID-19

You'll be aware that New Zealand will move to a new, long-term approach to COVID-19. These changes have been made based on public health advice and reflect high levels of immunity and declining case numbers across New Zealand.

This new approach will only result in minor changes to the way we operate.

The very positive news 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 who are household contacts but test negative and do not have COVID-19 symptoms, should continue to attend school. It is the best place for them to be so they can be engaged in their learning, and connected with their teachers, classmates and friends.

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

Mask wearing is no longer required but the Naenae Board of Trustess and I support any staff or students who wish to continue wearing masks.

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**.

Attendance rates continue to trend up at Naenae College and I thank you for supporting our rangatahi in returning to the habits of attending school which is so vital for their success.

Thank you for your ongoing support in protecting our community.

Noho ora mai

Nic Richards
Principal