



Fairfield College

28 August 2020

Kia ora e te whaanau

I start this communication by thanking our senior students for their efforts in organising the annual Fairfield College Day of Love. This is a day where students and staff are able to send flowers, chocolates, and serenades to those that are special to them.

The determination of our senior students in making sure that this day took place is praiseworthy and I thank them for their efforts. In a year where Covid-19 has so drastically altered our schedules it was special to see the smiles and the joy on the faces of both the recipients and givers as the 2020 Fairfield College Day of Love took place.



Information from the Ministry of Education Update about [Face Coverings](#):

Towards the end of the day the following notice was read over the intercom:

*To more effectively manage the health and safety of Covid -19 the government has made it compulsory **from 11.59pm on Sunday 30 August** for all people **aged 12 and above** to wear a face covering when using **public** transport. This means that all students that use public bus transport to travel to Fairfield College from Monday August 31st must wear a face covering while on the bus.*

If you use public transport and you think that you will have a problem accessing a face cover for Monday please come to the reception area after school to collect one.



Be respectful
Be responsible
Be the best you can be

PO Box 12-228
Hamilton 3248
New Zealand
Phone: +64 7 853 5660 Fax: +64 7 853 5679
Email: adminfc@faircol.school.nz

Please see information about the wearing of face coverings and how they apply to schools. ***The wearing of face covering does not apply to school transport it only applies to public transport.***

FAQs – Face coverings in education settings

Here is a statement from Director of Public Health Dr Caroline McElroy:

The purpose of wearing a face covering wrapped around your nose and mouth is to prevent the spread of infection between people. With the other public health measures we have put in place in schools and early learning services, coupled with the reduced risk of transmission at Alert Level 2, we consider the risk of infection is low.

Overall, we think it is important not to interfere with learning as much as possible, so it's about balancing up the benefits against the potential harms. Our experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 shows that it does not affect children and teens in the same way it does adults. Compared to other places, schools and early learning services are not environments where we have seen significant spread of COVID-19.

Children and teens don't become as unwell if they do get infected, and **they don't tend to pass the virus on** so much as adults in the classroom setting.

Can children, young people or teachers wear face coverings at school or early learning services if they wish to?

Yes. Any children, young people or teachers who wish to wear face coverings wrapped around the nose and mouth (including masks) at schools or early learning services may do so if they want to. They are entitled to make this decision and should not be criticised for doing so.

Do children and young people need to wear face coverings at schools at Alert Level 2?

No. Children and young people do not need to wear face coverings because **the risk of infection within the school environment is low.** Other public health control measures will be in place including children and staff staying home if they are sick, contact tracing, and hygiene requirements.

Do teachers need to wear face coverings at early learning services and schools at Alert Level 2?

No. Teachers **do not need to wear face coverings at Alert Level 2.** Other public health measures will be in place including children and staff staying home if they are sick, contact tracing, and hygiene requirements.

Do children and young people need to wear face coverings on school transport, or transport provided by early learning services, at Alert Level 2?

No. Children and young people **are not required to wear face coverings** wrapped around the nose and mouth on school transport or early learning service transport. Good hygiene measures, contact tracing and staying away if sick will remain in place.

Who is exempted from wearing face coverings on public transport at Alert Level 2?

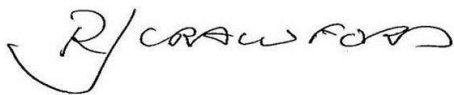
Children under 12 years of age are not required to wear face coverings on public transport at Alert Level 2.

For **people with a physical or mental health illness or condition or disability** that makes wearing a face covering unsuitable, they will be exempted from having to wear a face covering on public transport.

Further information on face coverings is available on the [covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz) website.

Thank you for your continued support. It remains a challenging time but as our senior students showed today we will get through this.

Naaku noa, naa



Richard Crawford
PRINCIPAL OF FAIRFIELD COLLEGE

