



# Fairfield College

13 October 2021

Kia ora e te whaanau

I hope that you are all well as we navigate through our most recent alert level three situation. Today, we were informed by the government that our region is required to stay at alert Level 3 until 11:59pm on Monday, October 18. I am hopeful that we will be able to transition to alert level 2 as soon as possible after this date.

The Ministry of Education informed school leaders today that when a transition to level 2 decision is made that a day will be given to schools to prepare for the return of students. This means that if the government was to decide that our region would transition to alert level 2 at 11:59 pm on Monday October 18 that school would not commence on site until Wednesday October 20. Tuesday October 19 would be allocated to schools to prepare for students to return to on site learning.

## Fairfield College operating at Alert Level Three

At Alert Level 3 you legally must stay within your household bubble unless for essential personal movement, including going to work and going to school.

We are therefore open on Monday October 18 for children of essential workers that are unable to provide home supervision during the school day (**year 9 and year 10 students only**). Year 11, 12, and 13 students are required to work from home.

While we know how difficult it is trying to work from home as well as support your child's learning, please keep your child at home if there is an appropriate carer available. For those of you with no other option, we look forward to seeing your child at school on Monday October 18.

We are in the process of contacting those students that attended Fairfield College the last time that we were at Alert Level 3 to check if the parental working situation still requires them to attend school. If your work situation has changed and you now require your child to attend school please email Deputy Principal Sarah Summerfield with the following details: Student name, year level, and parental work situation that requires the year 9 or year 10 student to attend school. To assist us prepare for Monday October 18, please provide this information by **4pm, Friday, October 15**.

[summerfields@faircol.school.nz](mailto:summerfields@faircol.school.nz)

School will commence at 9am and conclude at 3pm. Further information will be sent to those parents whose work situation and also the absence of an appropriate carer at home requires their year 9 or year child to attend school.

All our usual safety precautions for Alert Level 3 will be in place which include following all the recommendations from the public health experts.

This means we will regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, encourage everyone to frequently wash their hands and cover their coughs and sneezes, and keep everyone physically distanced from others as much as possible (one metre inside and two metres outside). We will also keep school bubbles to no more than 10 students. These bubbles will not mix with other bubbles.



**Be respectful**  
**Be responsible**  
**Be the best you can be**

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Email: [adminfc@faircol.school.nz](mailto:adminfc@faircol.school.nz)

Students that attend during Level 3 are now required to wear face coverings when at school in Alert Level 3, as are the staff. Face coverings are now also required to be worn on school transport for students in Years 9-13.

Our contact tracing systems will be in place, which includes our attendance register and visitor register, and we will be limiting staff onsite with the majority of our team working from home.

You can also assist everyone's safety by keeping your child at home if they are feeling unwell.

Under Alert Level 3 our staff on-site will have been tested for COVID-19 before we get back to work. This is a mandated requirement of the Ministry of Health. I received my first Covid test today at the Claudelands Events Centre in preparation for students returning to school under alert level 3.

#### Vaccination requirements

It is also now legally required that we hold a COVID-19 vaccination register for all eligible students and staff. There is a schedule put in place by the government for all of our staff to be vaccinated. This is a requirement of our employment in the education sector and we are required to have our first vaccination by November 15 and our second vaccination by January 1, 2022.

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 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.

We will continue to support all children who remain learning from home, through our distance learning programme if our current alert level 3 is to be extended. **However, on Monday October 18, staff will not be providing distance learning as they will be spending this time to prepare for a possible extension of distance learning.**

We are proud of how our community has responded to this outbreak, but more work is required. Please continue to follow all the alert level requirements including staying at home, getting tested for COVID-19 if you are feeling unwell, and for your own sake and for the health of your whānau, please get vaccinated. I have included some [information about vaccinations](#) to support decision making.

These are the very best things we can do to keep our community as safe as possible and get everyone back to school.

Kia haumarū - Be safe.

Naaku noa, naa



Richard Crawford  
PRINCIPAL