



Fairfield College

25 July 2022

It was great to welcome our students and staff back to school today. In previous years we have found there is an increase in winter illnesses in schools at the start of Term 3 as students bring back infections after travelling and socialising during the holidays. This year cases of COVID-19 are increasing in most parts of the country, and we are also seeing high numbers of other winter illnesses.

For the start of Term 3, 2022, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health have strongly recommended that all schools require mask wearing in all indoor settings for students in Years 4 and above. They have recommended that schools review this at the end of Week 4 (19 August).

The Fairfield College Board of Trustees have considered our situation and aligned with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health recommendations have passed the following motion: *The FFC Board of Trustees approves the mandating of the wearing of approved face coverings when indoors at Fairfield College for all students, staff, and visitors.*

The Student Lesdarship Council met today to discuss this situation and they have passed a motion of support for the Board's motion. They understand that there is a need to make this change as research shows that wearing masks can reduce new cases of the virus by as much as 53%. It works alongside other measures including vaccination, good ventilation, staying home when sick, and hand washing and other hygiene measures, to protect our students and staff. [Keep up healthy habits – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

Students will be informed of the compulsory indoor wearing of approved face coverings at Fairfield College for all students, staff, and visitors at a school assembly on Tuesday 26 July. When attending school assemblies students that do not have a face covering are provided with a face covering. The mandatory wearing of face coverings when indoors at Fairfield College will be implemented after this assembly. This will be reviewed on August 19.

We acknowledge that some of our students are exempt from wearing a mask because of health conditions. These students should have an exemption card or a letter from their health provider and we will support them to not wear a mask.

[Apply for a face mask exemption pass – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

I respectfully request that you please provide your children with face coverings to wear indoors at Fairfield College. There will be a limited supply of face coverings for students who are unable to bring one from home. Thank you for your support in protecting our school community.

Noho ora mai

Richard Crawford
PRINCIPAL



Be respectful
Be responsible
Be the best you can be