

13 October, 2021

Kia ora koutou katoa

As you might have heard, the Government announced that vaccinations will be mandatory for all staff working in schools from January 2022. This includes volunteers and will be a requirement for parents helping at school camps and other parent help situations.

As you know we have been following public health advice throughout this pandemic and will continue to do so, to provide a safe environment for families and children.

We are encouraging staff and families to get vaccinated as soon as they can including our students who are 12 or over.

The response by New Zealanders to this latest outbreak has been strong, with high rates of testing and more and more people getting vaccinated.

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 are also doing our part by working toward all our staff being vaccinated.

We will therefore need to know if children 12 and over 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 are working through details of the government's latest announcements and will give you more information as it becomes available.

We thank you for your continuing support.

Mā te Atua koutou katoa e tiaki, e manaaki.

May God protect and care for you all.

*Carmel Brosnahan-Pye*