

Kia ora Koutouou
Dear Parents / Whānau

Thanks for your patience as we have been waiting for further advice from the Ministry regarding what the beginning of Term 4 will look like.

Waikato Students

- Those students impacted by the Alert Level 3 Waikato lockdown will be unable to attend school until the alert level moves.
- No students from an Alert Level 3 are able to be transported on a school bus; this includes any students who live on the Te Kauwhata side of State Highway 2.
- Buses will run as per Term 3 with the exception of the **Maramarua bus** route for Monday.
- The bus cannot stop at Maramarua School as it is in Level 3 so this bus will pick up students at the Service station (Allied) on Monument Road instead. It cannot pick up on **Okaeria Road** so that stop will now be at the **Black Beagle Cafe** at 3331 State Highway 2.

Face Coverings on Buses

- Under the new Health Order rules, all students aged 12 and over must wear a face covering while travelling on school transport to and from school under all Alert Levels.
- Providing face coverings is the responsibility of individuals and caregivers. Transport providers are not required to have face coverings available for student use.
- School transport drivers are not required to enforce the wearing of face coverings: they will report any non-compliance to the school's bus controller.

Students within the Level 3 Auckland boundary

The following is the latest advice from the Ministry which is relevant to Level 3 Auckland boundary students.

- In the current COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Order, it is currently not permitted for students or staff to travel across the Alert Level 3 boundary to attend school in Alert Level 2. (Nor is it permitted for students or staff in an Alert Level 2 area to travel across a boundary to attend school in Alert Level 3.)

- However, this is an issue **under active consideration**, and the Ministry will update schools if there are any changes to permissions to travel in the near future.
- It is possible that, if permitted in the future, travel by those in Alert Level 3 areas going into Alert Level 2 areas will require regular testing as part of that permission to travel back and forth (for those aged 12 and over). This would be confirmed through a future health order.
- In the meantime, an exemption request to travel remains an option, but the threshold for approval remains high. Links to exemption requests can be found on the unite Against COVID-19 website. [Personal travel across an alert level boundary – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

Schools as Vaccination Sites / Student registers

- Thank you to those who have made contact regarding parental knowledge and consent for student vaccinations and registers. It is **not** the intention of the Board of Trustees, nor are there any plans in place, for Hauraki Plains College to be used as a vaccination site for students (or staff).
- We are waiting for full and clear communication from the Ministry regarding student vaccination registers and the school's responsibility with this. No information will be collected formally or informally from students (e.g. teacher questioning students). We will continue to keep parents informed as more information comes to hand.

Please feel free to contact either myself (principal@aurakiplains.school.nz) or Board Chair Andrew Gordon (southfarms@xtra.co.nz) if you have any concerns or questions with the above.

Ngairé Harris
PRINCIPAL