



7 September 2021

Covid-19 Update - Alert Level 2 Delta

Following the Prime Minister's announcement, we are excited and relieved to learn of the conditions under which schools can re-open fully under Alert Level 2 Delta. All students can return to Taupo-nui-a-Tia College on Thursday 9 September. To facilitate this transition, all Zoom support will end after normal lessons Tuesday 7 September at 12:30pm. This will enable staff to set up classrooms on Wednesday and prepare for face-to-face learning on Thursday 9 September.

Firstly, we are extremely mindful that this is not 'business as usual'. Staff and students are not returning from the equivalent of a Christmas holiday break. The experiences of lockdown, online learning, and the economic impact on whanau have been markedly different for each of us. It would be wrong to expect that learning will simply pick up where we left off in August. There will be an adjustment period as we get classroom learning back up to speed. Our focus will be on re-establishing teaching relationships, engagement, achievement, and student wellbeing.

Ministry of Health statement for education

The two key public health principles that support our approach at Alert Level 2 Delta are first to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person if someone is infected.

Any students or staff *must stay at home* if they are sick or will be sent home immediately if they show any symptoms. If a student is sent home, it is our expectation that they are tested and receive a negative result for Covid-19 before returning to college.

While physical distancing is not a requirement in schools, we will be doing our best to keep students from congregating in very large numbers and keeping spaces well-ventilated. In an Alert Level 2 Delta school environment, this means students and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, coupled with good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Face coverings are not required but are recommended to be worn in school. The Director General of Health has recommended that children 12 years+ wear a face covering at school – just as older children are required to wear face coverings in some other places. The decision to wear and provide a face covering is up to you and your whānau, whatever your decision it will be respected.

Taupo-nui-a-Tia under Alert Level 2 Delta

- We are excited that we will be fully open and operational on Thursday 9 September, 2021
- We expect all students to be back at college when we open under Level 2 unless there are health issues. Only those who are unwell in any way should be absent. Please notify the college of an absence through the attendance line (07 3761100 Ext1).
- On Thursday 9 September, timetables will revert to normal and distance learning will be reduced to digital resources posted online. All zoom support will end after **Tuesday 7 September**. Students who are unable to attend due to illness or other legitimate reasons will



be following learning via these digital resources on Google Classroom. This will be our distance learning at Level 2.

Taupo-nui-a-Tia Assurances

- Hygiene requirements will be front and centre both in terms of our messages to our Nui community and in terms of expected practice.
 - Mask wearing is recommended but is not required.
 - Individuals will need to provide their own masks.
- Contact tracing is in place through period attendance checks, which can be tracked through the Nui Website.
- Assemblies will not occur during the first week then will be reviewed on a weekly basis.
- PE and sports activities will occur subject to handwashing before and after, cleaning of equipment between activities, and contact tracing of all groups.

Important considerations

- School transport services will be running as normal from 9 September. Additional hygiene measures are in place to minimise the risk of transmission. We remind you that masks are mandatory on *public* busses.
- The canteen will operate during Level 2. This will be cashless. We aim to avoid queuing. There may be some restrictions on the products available. We suggest that students bring their own food for the first two days until we get processes in place.
- Visitors: we would ask that where possible you communicate via email or phone; essential visitation should be through the front office only. QR code scanning is mandatory.
- Any student having received hard copy resources, Ministry devices, college devices, or college resources during Alert Level 3 should return them on 9 September. This will ensure all students can continue to benefit from them during Alert Level 2.

We very much look forward to welcoming our young people back to school on Thursday 9 September.

Alistair Froggett
Acting Principal