

Dear Parents / Caregivers,
Teena koutou,

And, finally, the news we have all been waiting for – we are out of lockdown and can re-open CHS. School will open again for all students, with the first lesson starting at 8:50am (as it is a Thursday morning with a slightly later start).

In making this announcement, the government are confident in the safety of our community and ready for us to move down the Alert Levels, to Level 2.

Specifically, in a school setting this means that we can return to school with confidence. There are no limits on the quantity of students at school as we are considered a safe place where all interactions are readily traceable, and individuals are limited to members of our school community. This is the official guidance “by Under the COVID-19 Public Health Response Order, schools are exempted from physical distancing requirements when people are there to receive, provide, or support education services.” We do, however, need to be careful about gathering sizes when we consider including members of the public.

We have managed life under Level 2 at CHS very well in the past and I expect we will do so again. There are some changes that reflect increased caution around the treatment of the Delta variant. The following are the major changes:

- Face masks are recommended, but not compulsory. This means you are encouraged to wear them, particularly in some of our more crowded areas, but this is an individual and family-based decision. We will not be mandating this on the school site, however, the Director General of Health strongly encourages students aged 12 and above to wear face coverings in secondary school settings to align with the requirements when out and about.
- Lower limits to public gatherings. This has moved from 100 to 50 in an indoor setting, when other schools and members of the public are involved. This has the potential to impact our Sports and Culture events, although we have no update for you at this stage.

Just like last time, most of the expectations will remain the same:

- There is no requirement for social distancing, but we will create space, where possible, to support those in our community that may feel uncomfortable being in close quarters after lockdown
- One-way traffic flow system in M Block and R&D Block. We found this was important last time to help reduce congestion, details will be shared on a separate email later tomorrow.
- 5-minute movement time between lessons. This has been in place all year and is particularly useful now as it helps with movement between lessons and minimising congestion on site. It also provides time for staff to clean surfaces as needed.
- Hand sanitiser and washing stations. Students and staff are encouraged to wash their hands regularly or sanitise, especially prior to eating and before entering a class.

There are a few significant events in our calendar this term, and we will work be assessing the viability of these events over the coming days. In assessing the events, we will be looking for ways to continue to run an event wherever possible, only cancelling events if it is genuinely not feasible under Level 2 restrictions.

Finally, if you are unsure what all the rules are for alert level 2 when you are out and about, then the following information may be useful to you:

- [COVID-19 Alert Levels summary table](#)
- [COVID-19 Alert Levels detailed table](#)

Kind regards
Ngaa mihi

Greg Thornton