

Good morning everyone,
Ata marie ki a koutou,

And, finally, the news we have all been waiting for – we are out of Level 3 and can re-open CHS under the less restrictive Level 2 conditions. 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.
- Personally, I will choose to wear a face mask, particularly when in larger groups or areas where I will be working closely with others. This is not because I have concerns about the safety of CHS, but because I want to be visibly in support of those that do want to wear face masks. Wearing masks in NZ is somewhat counter-cultural and, although normalised around the globe and recently in our community, it is something that still takes some adjusting to here. I want to support the recommendation and help create a comfortable environment for others that also choose to wear a face mask.

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.
- All visitors to CHS must scan our QR codes and we ask that you all wear face masks in accordance with expectations around retail and other public places. All students must sign out if they need to leave campus for legitimate absences during the school day and they need to scan the QR code at places they visit while offsite.
- Devices and online work. All students need to bring in their devices. This is to support the online learning plan this in place as well as to gain access to work and resources that have been used over the lockdown period. This will also enable students to continue on with their work while we target smaller groups for more support or extension work.

Finally, a few of you have asked about families who chose not to send their child back to school. We are going to be in Level 2 and so the return to school is a safe option for students and we have protocol in place to ensure this remains the case. Our emphasis will be supporting the students who are onsite with their learning and, as such, we encourage you to attend CHS especially as any support for online learning will be minimal. If you need support with this transition please contact your child's form teacher or House Dean.

Thank you all once again for your feedback and support over the past few weeks. If you are particularly happy with the support you have received from a staff member, please remember to send an email to kapai@camhigh.school.nz. They will receive a certificate and be included in our recognition system at CHS. We especially appreciate these recognitions when they come from students.

Kind regards

Ngaa mihi

Greg Thornton