

Dear Parents / Caregivers,
Teena koutou ki a koutou,

Yesterday, the government announced the move to Phase 3 in managing COVID. With this change the emphasis now shifts to self-reporting and sharing the information with contacts so that we can make an informed decision to protect the more vulnerable around us.

From now on, only positive cases and household contacts will be required to isolate. If you do test positive, it is now your responsibility to conduct your own contact tracing. You will be sent a text link to help you identify locations you have visited and people with whom you have come into close contact (click [here](#) for more information). This will enable contacts to assess their own level of risk and protect the more vulnerable around them (for example they may choose not to visit older relatives on the weekend having recently been exposed to the virus).

What this means specifically for CHS:

- We need to know about positive cases and absences due to being a household contact. We will maintain a register here so that we can support their learning online. Please contact absences@camhigh.school.nz if you are absent either as a case or a household contact.
- We will no longer be contact tracing student and staff interactions while at school.
- We may still experience significant disruption to learning as it is likely that members of our staff will become positive or household contacts from a range of interactions outside of CHS. We have a plan for continuing learning, including online options, however this will still require relief teachers to supervise the class. Our ability to sustain this depends on the quantity of relief teachers available as well as the areas of the school affected. We have planned for different responses, from combining classes through to the rostering home of year levels to continue learning at home, depending on how significant this impact is.
- Individual hygiene and self-responsibility remain very important as we want to minimise the risk of transmitting the disease. Please stress the following with your children at home:
 - Basic hygiene is important. This means no sharing of drink bottles or other similar risks.
 - Hand washing, especially before meals, is important. Please use the extra stations provided at CHS.
 - Facemask wearing **correctly** indoors makes a big difference. This dampens the risk of transmission of the disease. We have seen and increased numbers of students who are not wearing them correctly indoors or turning up to school without a mask. Can you please have a look at this really good summary of how to wear one [correctly](#) and ensure your child has one before leaving the house.

I have also attached two images that clearly explain the changes into Phase 3.

Sport and vaccine pass update.

Today, Minister Hipkins announced changes to the requirement for vaccine passes in any school sporting fixture and we will see this condition lifted shortly. The details of this are currently being worked through and we expect to be able to share clear guidance with you at the end of next week. This means that the **status quo** applies to **all sport** until further notice.

Online assembly.

On Wednesday we will run our formal assembly online. In this assembly we will present our student leaders to the school and introduce REACH to the school, with a special emphasis on “Care for people and places” and “Have courage to succeed” – two values that are particularly important in the face of the ongoing COVID challenges, how we treat each other and how we can get the most out of 2022. We will share the online link closer to the time.

Kia pai oo raa whakataa
Have a good weekend

Greg Thornton