

GARIN COLLEGE

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Kia ora koutou Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

Covid Mask wearing update for the start of Term 3

At this time of year cases of COVID-19 are increasing in most parts of the country, and we are also seeing high numbers of other winter illnesses. All schools have received a new communication from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health in which they strongly recommend that all schools and kura amend their mask policy for the first four weeks of term to require mask wearing in all indoor settings (where it will not have a significant impact on teaching and learning – see below) for students in Years 4 and above.

Garin College, in light of this recommendation, the Garin College Covid-19 Safety Action Plan has been reviewed. We therefore ask that for the next 4 weeks from tomorrow, Tuesday 26 July 2022.

- **All students and staff who do not hold mask wearing exemptions are to bring a face mask to school and wear it indoors and on buses.**
- **Any visitors to school wear a mask when indoors.**

This requirement does not include any situation where mask wearing might not be practicable, such as while eating and drinking, playing certain musical instruments, indoor sport, where it will have a significant impact on teaching and learning (for example, students with particular learning needs), certain activities such as singing or drama performance on stage, and PE. In these situations, particular attention should be paid to ensuring there is good ventilation during the activity, and physical distancing where practicable.

Wearing masks can reduce new cases of the virus by as much as 53%. It works alongside other measures including vaccination, good ventilation, staying home when sick, and hand washing and other hygiene measures, to protect our students and staff. [Keep up healthy habits – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

We know that some of our tamariki/ākonga are **exempt** from wearing a mask. If they have an exemption card or a letter from their health provider, or we have agreed that mask wearing is not practicable for them, we will support them to not wear a mask. [Apply for a face mask exemption pass – Unite Against COVID-19](#)

Please make sure that your student comes to school ready to wear a mask, unless exempt as outlined above. Students should bring masks from home. If students cannot bring masks, there will be a limited supply of masks available from our school office and within many classrooms for students who are unable to bring one from home.

We experienced high levels of student and staff illnesses last term. The above guidelines will support us all to keep our Learners and Staff healthy.

Thank you for your support in protecting our school community.

God bless

John Maguire
Principal

