

GARIN COLLEGE

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Kia ora koutou Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

Update On Covid & Public Holiday to Mark the Death of Queen Elizabeth II

You will have heard from Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, that Monday 26 September will be a Public Holiday to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Garin College will be closed for learning on this day. Jacinda also announced the long term strategy for Covid-19.

New long-term strategy for COVID-19

You'll be aware that New Zealand will move to a new, long-term approach to COVID-19. These changes have been made based on public health advice and reflect high levels of immunity and declining case numbers across New Zealand.

This new approach will only result in minor changes to the way we operate.

The very positive news is that household contacts of a person with Covid-19 do not need to isolate, instead they are asked to complete a RAT test each day, for five days. Therefore, ākongā who are household contacts but test negative and do not have Covid-19 symptoms, should continue to attend. It is the best place for them to be so they can be engaged in their learning, and connected with their teachers, classmates and friends.

Information on how to get RAT kits can be found here: [Request a RAT– Ministry of Health](#)

Mask wearing is no longer strongly recommended/required. Students and staff are obviously able to keep wearing masks if they so wish.

All the other recommended public health measures will stay in place as we know they reduce the spread of infectious illnesses including Covid-19. These include ensuring our indoor spaces are well-ventilated, maintaining good hand hygiene, encouraging everyone to cough or sneeze into elbows and, most importantly, staying home and getting tested if they have Covid-19 symptoms.

Thank you for your support in protecting our school community.

God bless

John Maguire
Principal