



13 August 2020

Kia ora koutou

The shift in COVID-19 Alert Levels announced by the Prime Minister on Tuesday evening was not what any of us wanted to hear. We have been considering what this change in Alert Level means for us at Waimea College. We hope the information below is useful.

As we are currently in COVID-19 Alert Level 2 some key reminders:

- At Alert Level 2 it is safe for all students and staff to attend school.
- Those who are at higher risk of severe illness are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home eg: personal hand sanitiser, masks etc.
- Please stay at home if you are unwell.
- Please maintain good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette.
- It is important to maintain enough distance so that students are not breathing on or touching each other. There does not need to be a specific measurement but where practicable and reasonable 1 metre can be used as a guide.
- Ministry of Health advises that **masks are not currently required** in schools at **Alert Levels 2 and 3**.
- Further information is available at <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

Calendar updates

- **Community Consultation** - The public engagement meeting to discuss how best to respond to the growth in student numbers in the Richmond West area was scheduled for Thursday 13th August at Waimea College at 7.00 pm. This has now been **postponed until further notice**.
- **Junior Parent Teacher Interviews** - On Monday 17 August we will advise whether these will proceed. Parent Teacher Interviews will only be held if we return to COVID-19 Alert Level 1.
- **Senior Assessment Week** - At this stage these will continue as scheduled, commencing Friday 21 August 2020. We are amending the rooming arrangements to ensure we are meeting COVID-19 Alert Level 2 guidelines. You will be advised if there are any changes to the schedule.
- **Overnight Trips/Camps** - Unfortunately, these will not be able to occur until we return to COVID-19 Alert Level 1. Further information will follow if this impacts your teen.
- **Sport** – The school will be following advice from individual sporting bodies, ensuring we are meeting Ministry of Health guidelines. Many sporting events may be cancelled or, if going ahead, will be held with no spectators.
- **Gatherings/Assemblies** – in line with COVID-19 Alert Level 2 guidelines, we will not be holding large group gatherings at Waimea College.

We will update you as further information comes to hand.

He Waka Eke Noa – A waka that we are all in together.

Ngā mihi nui

Scott Haines
Principal