

Hororata Primary School



OUR SCHOOL | KURA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kei aku nui, kei aku rahi, tēnā koutou katoa i roto i ngā āhuetanga o te wā.

Welcome back after what we hope has been a wonderful summer for your whānau.

Our team is feeling refreshed and ready to go for the 2022 year and can't wait to welcome everyone back onsite. The school gate is ready to open at the normal time and the school buses are ready to run as normal.

In regard to COVID-19 we have moved fully into the new traffic light framework for all our school and kura activities and events this year. We continue to promote the following public health measures and are confident that at the Red setting, we are able to support everyone learning onsite.

Specific public health measures to be taken in schools:

- Keeping our kids safe is a shared responsibility. Parents are asked to keep any **children who are unwell or displaying COVID symptoms at home.**
- **Face coverings (PPE)** are required for all staff and children in Years 4 – 13, when inside at school and whilst traveling on school buses.
- Children, young people and staff should be far enough away from each other so that they are not breathing on or touching each other. School **events and activities** will be reviewed independently to ensure that we adhere to the appropriate health measures.
- Good hygiene practices will be maintained, including encouraging children and young people to regularly wash and dry hands, cough and sneeze into their elbows, and try to avoid touching their face; regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces and maintaining **good ventilation** in shared spaces.
- Supporting children, staff and whanau with information about **vaccinations; preparing for and/or dealing with COVID-19 cases in our community and preparing to return to school.**
- **Visitor Management** information will be maintained to identify which children and adults are on site. All visitors to the school site must report to the school office on arrival.

While this might all feel a little overwhelming at times, we know that all these measures will help our children return to school, reconnect with whānau and friends and do what they enjoy. We are also here to help. Please get in touch if you have any concerns or need help in any way.

Ngā mihi nui,

Marty Gameson



- ✓ Events
- ✓ Notices
- ✓ Instant school messages
- ✓ Absentee
- ✓ Newsletters
- ✓ Permission slips



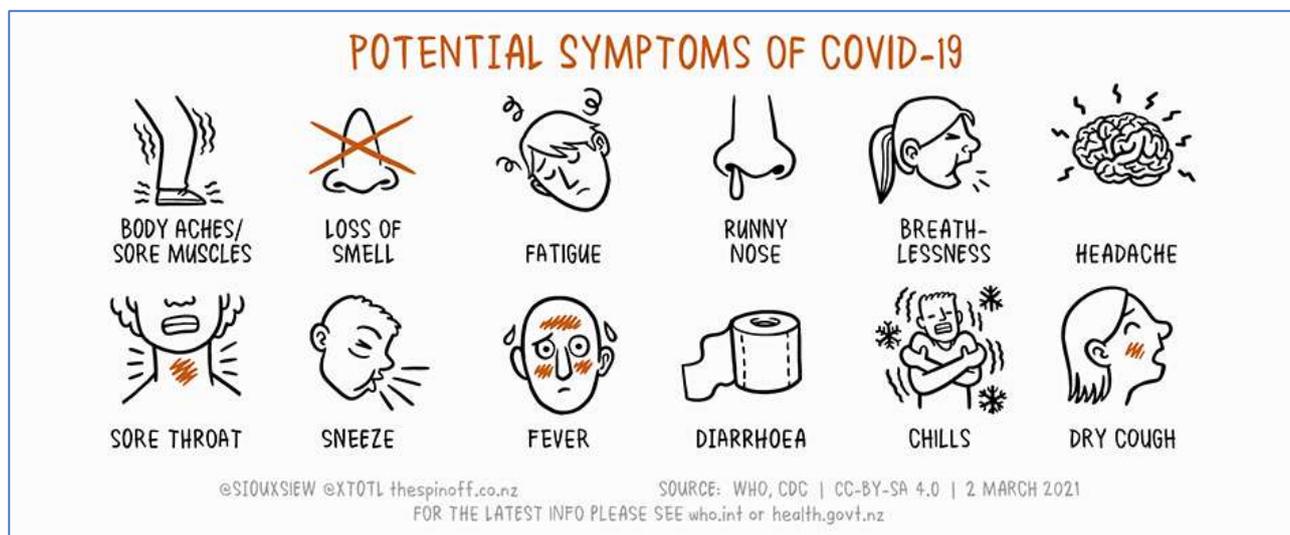
Simple free download:
In Google Play and App Store search 'Skool Loop' and choose our school once installed.



Keeping our Kids Safe

Schools have the shared responsibility with caregivers and the local community to keep our kids safe. In the past we focused on being SunSmart, safety when travelling to and from school and the mental health of our tamariki. We now need to be vigilant about our hygiene practices – washing hands, sneezing etiquette, social distancing, face coverings and the importance of staying away if you are sick or unwell.

Students, staff and parents are reminded of our school's on-going commitment to Health and Safety and the compulsory wearing of the school's High Visibility Safety Apparel (HVSA) – safety vests and sun hats.



Face Coverings

All staff and children in Years 4 – 13 must wear face coverings when inside at school when we are at Red. Public health advice is that an appropriate face covering will fit snugly and seal well around facial contours. This can include single use, disposable masks (medical masks) and re-usable fabric masks with three layers. Don't worry if you don't have these specific types of face coverings, as public health experts also say that any face covering is better than no face covering.

For those of you with children who might be reluctant to wear a face covering, there is some helpful advice from Michigan Health, including using simple, specific explanations about why they need to wear a face covering, adults being the role models, providing small rewards for wearing them, bringing face coverings into play such as drawing face coverings on characters in colouring books, or letting them choose/make the mask.

The wearing of face coverings is optional for children in Years 0-3 and should be worn by all adults coming onto the school grounds.

Find out more here:

- <https://covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/keep-up-healthy-habits/wear-a-face-covering/how-to-make-a-face-covering/>
- <https://healthblog.uofmhealth.org/childrens-health/5-ways-to-get-young-kids-to-wear-face-masks?amp>

Events and Activities

Large hui and gatherings especially when indoors continue to be one of the riskier activities we can undertake. We have therefore reviewed all our events and activities for the upcoming term to ensure we meet the health guidance for Red. School assemblies and Kapa Haka will be modified to meet health guidelines.

Ventilation

We have used the Ministry of Education self-assessment tool to review all our ventilation in readiness for the start of the year. Providing good old fashioned fresh air remains the most important thing we can do in our learning spaces to minimise risk for ākonga and kaiako (and the same goes for you at home). We will also be receiving a CO₂ monitor in the coming weeks to further support our ventilation plan.

Vaccination for five- to 11-year-olds

Vaccination including a booster shot, remains an important tool to help prevent the most serious harm from the COVID-19 virus. If children and young adults who have been vaccinated do develop COVID-19, they are far less likely to get seriously ill and less likely to transmit the virus to others.

The free five- to 11-year-old vaccination programme is now underway and more than 100,000 children in New Zealand have had their first dose.

There is some helpful information available to support you on the Unite Against COVID-19 website including How to book a vaccine for your five – 11-year-old and some great videos on the Kids Health page that can support you to talk to your tamariki about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Find out more here:

- <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/get-the-facts-about-covid-19-vaccination/covid-19-vaccination-and-children/>

Managing cases in our school

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing a physical onsite school and moving to distance learning for everyone. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

Please make sure your contact details we have on file are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

Preparing for COVID-19

You can also prepare for COVID-19, making sure you and your household have a plan and know what to do. This will mean your whānau and community can help each other if needed.

Many people will be able to manage self-isolation with help from friends and whānau, but there is help available if you need it – both with health support and access to food and other essentials.

Find out more here:

- <https://covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/be-prepared-for-covid-19/>
- <https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/posters/COVID-19-Readiness-Checklist.pdf>
- <https://covid19.govt.nz/isolation-and-care/what-to-expect-when-self-isolating-at-home/>
- <https://covid19.govt.nz/isolation-and-care/getting-extra-support-if-you-have-covid-19-or-are-self-isolating/>
- <https://www.healthnavigator.org.nz/health-a-z/c/covid-19-positive-managing-your-symptoms/>

If you know anyone in your community affected by COVID-19 and who may need help, such as food and other financial assistance, Work and Income has a range of supports available for individuals, families, employers and self-employed people affected by COVID-19.

Find out more here:

- <https://workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/>

Back-to-School

The beginning of the year can be a tough time for parents who are faced with many costs and it is important you are aware of what assistance you may be able to get from Work and Income. These are available to people on a low income as well as those on a benefit.

Check what you might get here:

- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/children/school-costs.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/oscar-subsidy.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/childcare-assistance/index.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/school-and-year-start-up-payment.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/living-expenses/index.html>

Use the links above or call 0800 559 009 to find out more, or to apply.

MoneyTalks can assist with free budgeting and debt help at <https://www.moneytalks.co.nz/>

The Ministry of Education has some helpful information on their Parents and Whānau website to support your tamariki to get back to school. There is also a very important reminder about how you can take care of yourself.

Find out more here:

- <https://parents.education.govt.nz/essential-information/covid-19-information-for-parents-and-whanau/back-to-early-learning-services-school-or-kura/>
- <https://parents.education.govt.nz/essential-information/covid-19-information-for-parents-and-whanau/back-to-early-learning-services-school-or-kura/#takecare>

Visitor Management

To manage the high numbers of people who visit our school each day, we have a VisTab Visitor Management system. VisTab School Management is a simple and easy to use sign-in procedure designed for schools. It records the relevant information for pupils leaving during the day and visitors and relievers coming and going, allowing the school to access critical information for health & safety or in the event of an emergency evacuation.



The Visitor Management device is located in the office area, by the door to the Principal's Office.

- All visitors' incl. parents/friends of our school, are required to login into the device, if they are onsite.
- All students who arrive late or leave early from school are required to login into the device when they arrive at or leave school.
- This is not a COVID tool for contact tracing, visitors are also required to scan the QR Codes posters displayed around the school.
- As we are unsure of the vaccination and mask wearing status of all visitors, we ask that parents pick-up and drop-off tamariki at the gate, unless it is essential that you enter the school grounds.

RED

Schools and kura are OPEN for on site learning for all students.

 Face coverings are required: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• for all ākonga Years 4 and up when indoors or in close contact with others• for staff working to provide or support the provisions of education for Years 4 and up• on school transport for all ākonga aged 12 and up.	 Essential support services and agencies such as learning support service may be on site. Minimise attendance on site for non-essential services as much as possible.
 Curriculum related activities – Large activities with students should not go ahead unless held outdoors.	 No non-essential visitors on site.
 Non-curriculum related events should be limited and may only go ahead if a vaccination certificate is required.	 Children with complex medical needs, can seek advice from their health professional about whether it is appropriate to come to school. Parents, caregivers and students will need to work with the school to develop a plan to support attendance on site.
 No external students on site for non-curriculum related inter-school activities.	 Support for off site learning will be provided for those who are advised to remain at home.