

Whangaparāoa College Covid-19 Protective Measures

COMMUNITY FAQs

Will it be safe for learners to return to our college site?

- We will take all the relevant safety measures to ensure our college site is as safe as possible for our learners and staff. While there is still a risk of Covid-19 in our wider community, we are doing everything possible to minimise this risk.

Will all staff members be vaccinated?

- Yes, all staff members on site must have received at least their first vaccination by 15 November 2021. Those who have only had one vaccination are required to undertake weekly Covid testing and must have had their second vaccination by 1 January 2022.

Will Whangaparāoa College buses be operating as normal?

- Yes, school buses will be operating as normal.

What safety measures have been taken around buses?

- All bus drivers will wear face masks. All learners will be required to wear face masks to minimise their risk. We ask all learners to be considerate and sensible whilst on board their school bus. For ventilation, the windows and roof vents in the bus will be open, and for those buses with air conditioning, this will be set to fresh air if possible.

Are face masks mandatory at college?

- Yes, for staff and learners, face masks are required to be worn at all times unless an exemption has been issued. If your child has an exemption, please send a copy to the Principal.

Will there be exceptions for not wearing face masks?

- In very *rare exceptions* face masks may not be worn, including when learners are eating and engaged in vigorous physical activity. This is at the discretion of the teachers.

Does a learner have to bring their own face mask to wear at the college?

- Yes, each learner must provide their own face mask to wear at the college.

What if my child doesn't want to wear a face mask?

- It is a requirement of the Health Order for all learners from Year 4 and older to wear a face mask. We encourage parents and caregivers to provide positive support and encouragement for this safety measure to help protect learners, especially if they are unvaccinated.

Will parents be prevented from coming onto Whangaparāoa College site?

- Yes, all parents are required to stay in their car and not walk or enter onto our college site.

Do learners need to provide a negative Covid-19 test before returning to the college?

- No, testing is required for staff only. However, if your child is feeling unwell, please ensure they stay home and seek medical advice.

Will our home learning remain as an option for learners who are hesitant about coming back on the college site?

- Yes, following our normal college timetable times, learners who don't attend college can access learning activities on Google Classrooms or Hapara. If these learners are Year 7, they will have Google Meet on their rostered days at home.

Will my child be able to buy lunch at the college?

- Yes, the Kura Kai Café will open each day. Learners will need to maintain physical distancing. Food available for sale will be wrapped and sealed. Eftpos only.

Will learners be allowed to use drinking fountains?

- No, learners must bring their own drink bottles, the drinking fountains are out of service.

Will the college library be open?

- No, except for returns and issues before school starts and at lunchtime.

How is Whangaparāoa College ensuring ventilation is effective in the classroom?

- All classrooms have functional windows, and many have air conditioning. Classrooms will have all doors and windows open throughout the College day. Teachers will be encouraged to take learning outdoors, ensuring learners are sun smart, and located in shade where possible.

Will College assemblies go ahead?

- No, under Alert Level 3 Step 2 conditions there will be no larger gatherings or groups operating within any of our indoor facilities.

Will College events be able to proceed?

- No, currently all planned college events for Term 4 have been cancelled or suspended until further notice.

Are sports able to proceed?

- Currently, under Step 1 and 2 of Alert Level 3, we can have Physical Education classes outside and in classroom bubbles. There will be no team practices, competitions or games with other schools.

Are there hand washing stations at the college?

- Yes, there is hand soap in the bathrooms and hand sanitisers available in each classroom.

What if my child becomes sick at the college?

- The learner will be assessed by our college nurse and required to isolate while parents are contacted to collect them. The learner will need to have a Covid-19 test administered and return a negative test result before returning to the college.

What will happen with a confirmed or probable Covid-19 case at Whangaparāoa College?

- Whangaparāoa College would immediately work with the Medical Officer of Health or our local Public Health Authority and follow their advice. This will include isolating the identified person and their close contacts. We will be in immediate contact with our community if this occurs.
- If our college needs to be closed temporarily, teaching and learning will continue online.
- For further details, please see the Ministry of Education advice to schools:
<https://www.education.govt.nz/covid-19/covid-19-in-your-school-or-early-learning-service/>

Will the college be introducing regular testing of vaccinated staff?

- There are currently no plans for regular testing of fully vaccinated staff in schools. The Health Order states that once fully vaccinated, staff need to present one negative test before returning to the college. Staff who have received 1 vaccination dose will receive weekly Covid-19 tests until they have their second dose.
NB. No unvaccinated staff are permitted on the school premises from Monday 15 November as per the Health Order.