

# *Bayview Primary School*

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1st November 2021

Kia Ora,

We are in the process of digesting the new Covid-19 Public Health Order which came into effect at 11.59pm on Monday 25th October. Clearly there are implications for school life, and it is going to take some time to appreciate what all of these are. A school like ours is highly dependent on the support of parents and the community, and this is something that we appreciate a great deal.

The Public Health Order now in place, affects parents and caregivers who volunteer in schools and Early Childhood centres. The advice that we have received from the Ministry Of Education is that everyone who works or volunteers for a school who may have contact with children or students, or will be present at a time when children and students are also present must have had a first dose of the covid-19 vaccine by 15th November 2021 and be fully vaccinated by 1st January 2022.

This also applies to:

- Principals
- Teachers
- Relieving teachers
- Administration staff
- Teacher aides
- Caretakers and cleaners
- Contractors and other tradespeople (if onsite when children are)
- Ministry of Education staff
- Parents / caregivers
- Other staff
- Any members of the community who are regularly on site during a time when children and students may be present.
- Volunteers

The vaccination requirements apply wherever in person schooling occurs, such as on the school site, but also at school camps, school trips, or where other education outside the classroom (EOTC) programmes take place. It also applies to people who would like to coach sports teams or train cultural groups such as Kapa Haka. This vaccination requirement does not apply to those who are performing services remotely, or who are onsite when children and students are not present.

This means that we must only allow people to help at school events with children present if they have had at least their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine by 11.59pm 15th November 2021 and are fully vaccinated by 1st January 2022.

We are anticipating that we will be unable to hold most of our normal end of year events and that even if we return to on site learning that parents may not be able to come on the school grounds (we do not know this for certain though as we must wait for any changes to alert levels to be announced). We will keep you updated as things change.

When school starts either this year or next year, we will need evidence of vaccination status for any school helpers (or evidence of exemption). We will store your information privately and confidentially in a secure

place. The refusal to provide this documentation on request means we will have to consider you as unvaccinated. We will let you know later once any changes are made to learners being allowed back onsite how you can provide us with that information.

Please note the requirements do not apply to people who are just visiting the school, such as for dropping your child off, for learning conferences/feedback meetings, or for a community or parent evening.

The response by New Zealanders to this latest outbreak has been strong, with high rates of testing and more and more people getting vaccinated. These actions are helping to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable group - children under the age of 12 who at this stage are unable to be vaccinated - our kids.

Below is a link to the full Public Health Order regarding vaccinations:

[https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0325/latest/whole.html?search=qs\\_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg\\_COVID-19+Public+Health+Response+\(Vaccinations\)\\_resel\\_25\\_h&p=1](https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0325/latest/whole.html?search=qs_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg_COVID-19+Public+Health+Response+(Vaccinations)_resel_25_h&p=1)

**I am letting you know this now as the 15th November is drawing close.**

I realise that there will be plenty of questions, and it is likely that we will not have answers right away. All schools are in the same boat and working through various situations and scenarios.

Thank you so much for your understanding and support around this.

Nāku noa, nā

Diane Raynes

Principal

On behalf of the Bayview School Board of Trustees