



Bayview
School

COVID
SAFETY
PLAN

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Introduction

To our Bayview School Whānau,

The last two and a half years have been very challenging. 2022 has allowed us to get all our learners back onsite and fully engaged with their learning. We continue to have a focus on wellbeing and the safety of your child while they are at school along with a focus in our core learning areas of literacy and numeracy.

Parents and caregivers, you have played such an important role in supporting your children and our school. Thank you so much for your efforts and support. Please know that we understand how truly challenging it has been and continues to be.

During 2022 we are being asked again to pivot continuously and to put things in place to deal with the current Covid variants and to prepare for further variants as they arise. Covid has not gone away! We are also having to deal with the increase in influenza infections and other illnesses that are a natural course in schools. We are being guided by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to provide onsite learning under the Covid Protection Framework. You may have noticed that the protections in schools are a little bit different from the general environment.

We are continually reviewing and revising our health and safety plan to comply with the MOH and MOE guidelines and any changes the Government makes in their approach. As you are aware we are in a continually evolving environment. Bayview School's approach has always been and will continue to have the safety of our children and staff at the centre of all decision making. By following the public health advice we will do our best to protect each other.

As the situation evolves, we will be adaptive and update this document. In keeping our children, families and selves safe it will require conscientious effort and this safety plan sets the expectations for how we will move forward together.

Due to the measures we have put in place Bayview School has not been as severely impacted as some other schools have. We are fortunate to have a staff and community that all work together for each others safety.

Summary of changes from Red to Orange setting

- **Parents are welcome back onsite and can drop off and pick up children from outside classrooms. Please do NOT enter classrooms.**
- **Parents are being asked to wear a mask whilst on the school grounds as a Covid protection measure.**
- **Teachers and learners will be strongly encouraged to continue to wear masks.**
- **We will continue to go on school trips and have organisations come onsite to run programmes building up our resilience and ability to be in larger groups of people.**
- **We will begin to hold larger gatherings of learners such as PLG assemblies moving into full school assemblies. We will let you know when parents can attend these.**
- **Break times will be all learners together with 4 active supervision teachers.**

- Pick up times will be 3pm for all learners. Classes will continue to be walked to their designated pick up areas.

Current Status

Bayview School is currently functioning under the **ORANGE** light guidelines of the Covid Protection Framework.

Vaccination

At this point being fully vaccinated, including a booster shot, provides the best defence against severe illness if infected with Covid-19. Vaccinated adults help us protect younger children. The mandate for all school staff to be fully vaccinated was lifted from 5th April but I can assure you that all school staff (and the majority of our relievers) are fully vaccinated. With the lifting of the mandate we are no longer able to enforce this with visitors including guest teachers but we can ensure they wear a medical grade mask and practice our hygiene procedures.

It is totally your decision as to whether your child is vaccinated or not. Bayview School will not ask for any child's vaccination status nor ask for any proof of this. If you would like to provide a copy of this for your child's records please email this to the office shannons@bayview.school.nz but this is not a requirement.

Health and Safety

Over the past two years, scientists, public health officials and school leaders have learned a lot about what risk mitigation strategies have been the most effective in reducing the spread of Covid-19. We are guided by the MOH and MOE and acknowledge that as conditions change, so can the guidelines. The Bayview School Leadership Team will continue to update the community as we act in response to any changes.

Current advice is that schools are safe for all children to return to and the expectation is that all children will return to on-site learning.

Protecting Our Vulnerable

Children with complex medical needs

Parents of children with complex medical needs, children, and our SENCO will work together to develop plans to support on-site learning when it is appropriate within the settings of the CPF. Key liaison staff: SENCO Shelley Matuku shelleym@bayview.school.nz

Masks

Bayview School will continue to require proper masks to be worn wherever and whenever possible. The latest variants are far more transmissible so masks are a way we can protect ourselves and each other.

All school staff are strongly encouraged to wear a medical grade mask whilst at school.

We are asking all parents coming onto our school grounds to please wear a mask as soon as they enter the grounds. This can be a material mask, medical mask or N95, KN95, P2. Please do not wear a bandana or scarf around your face nor just pull your clothing over your mouth as this does not protect our children or staff.

All students from Y4-6 are encouraged to wear a mask when they are indoors at school and Year 3 students in a Year 3/4 composite class are being encouraged to wear one as well for their safety and the safety of their peers. Learners do not have to wear a mask outside. Staff and students will be encouraged to take breaks from wearing a mask throughout the day by going outside. These breaks can be scheduled throughout the day.

Our children will eat outside while maintaining an appropriate physical distance from others. As the wet weather hits, the children will sit on the decks or the covered areas outside their classrooms as much as possible.

If a child forgets their mask, we are able to provide one for them.

Keep your child at home if they are sick

Play it safe! Keep your child at home if they are feeling unwell. Please do not send sick children to school regardless of the illness they have i.e. flu, colds, covid, other viruses, RSV, etc.

If you or your child have symptoms of Covid-19, call healthline on 0800 3585453 and they will provide you with advice and guidelines on what you should do.

Our aim is to keep our children healthy from all illnesses as we move into winter. Staff will observe children on arrival at school and if they display any symptoms of covid or any other illness we will make contact with a parent or caregivers to arrange for the child to be picked up as soon as possible. Contact will be made through the office.

If a teacher becomes unwell at school they will be given a Rapid Antigen test to take immediately. If they test positive they are required to self isolate for the number of days as outlined by the MoH.

If a child or staff member is unwell they will be required to stay home and not return until they are well enough to do so.

Hygiene

Washing hands has been a great strategy in maintaining a healthy environment.

To promote good practice we will continue to:

- Teach good hand washing technique.
- Encourage hand washing before and after eating and after going to the bathroom.
- Encourage hand washing before and after outdoor play.
- Every habitat will have hand washing supplies and hand sanitising stations.

- You may wish to send a hand towel to school in your child's bag to encourage them to dry their hands thoroughly.
- Teach the children how to cough or sneeze into their elbow and how to blow their nose properly and dispose of tissues correctly in the bin.
- Go over how to avoid touching your face including your eyes, nose and mouth if your hands are not clean.

Drinking Fountains

We have opened up our drinking fountains for our students to use.

We continue to recommend that all students bring their own drink bottles into school each day. These can be refilled at the drinking fountains or at the sinks in habitats.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, has a fragile outer membrane so it only survives on surfaces for a limited amount of time and is easy to kill through effective cleaning and disinfection using regular cleaning and disinfecting products. Bayview School has a comprehensive supply of cleaning products suited to this purpose.

At the end of each day surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected by staff.

Surfaces will be kept clean and children will be taught to understand and follow good basic hygiene practices. Posters will be displayed throughout the school.

Ventilation

Each morning our caretaker and school staff will open up all buildings, opening windows and doors. Staff will put a fan on in each habitat to maintain good airflow where required.

We have received a CO₂ monitor that will be used to check ventilation in each learning space. If the air quality is not good enough the class will move outside or to a more suitable space until the air quality can be resolved.

During the colder months we have been advised that opening windows up to 5 cm will provide the ventilation required in classrooms. This will ensure that we can still heat classrooms to the required temperature during winter and still have adequate ventilation. We encourage learners to wear a beanie and scarf to keep them warm on colder days.

Physical Distancing

The highest risk in contracting covid is in crowded and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.

To avoid any risks, follow physical distancing guidelines by keeping your distance when outside your home.

Under **orange** this means:

- Keeping a safe physical distance from people you don't know

We will hold any gatherings of students outside where possible. We will begin having PLG assemblies during term 2 and will be guided by the amount of illness at the school and current MOH guidance as to whether this continues and potentially hold full school assemblies. During term 3 we will introduce whole school assemblies again. Initially this will be without parents. As we have not had large gatherings of learners for such a long time we are slowly introducing this to get the learners used to being in larger groups of people. We will let you know when we are inviting parents back onsite to watch assemblies. Parents will be required to wear a face masks if they are attending assemblies.

Break Times

We will return to full school breaks where everyone is on break time together. We will have 4 active supervision teachers in the playgrounds during these break times.

During break times:

- The library will be open
- Break time events and clubs can be run.
- Organised sports can be conducted.

Assemblies

PLG's can run assemblies.

During term 3 we will begin to hold full school assemblies.

Hometime pick up

All learners will be dismissed at 3pm. Teachers will continue to walk their classes to their designated areas at 3pm.

Parents on-site

Under current **orange** light settings we are able to invite parents to drop off and pick up outside classrooms but we are asking all parents onsite to please wear a mask. We recognise that this is no longer required but our staff feel much safer within their work place when visitors wear a mask. We thank you in advance for respecting our staff.

Please note the following:

- Parents may only enter classrooms if they have a pre-booked appointment with a staff member, they must wear a mask while inside.
- You are able to continue to do drop off and pick up at the gate if that suits you.
- Anyone coming onsite is asked to wear a proper mask as an extra layer of protection for staff and students.

We request that parents and caregivers wear a mask as soon as they enter the school grounds and for the entire time they are on-site. This is because by nature, children can be unpredictable and may move past you in close proximity. It is one measure where we can help keep all of our children and staff safe.

Please wear your mask properly ensuring it is covering both your nose and mouth.

Please do not wear a bandana or scarf over your face or hold your clothing over your face.

Please do not be offended if we offer you a proper mask to wear.

We are no longer required to ask for vaccine passes.

Learning From Home

At **orange** light setting it is expected that all learners will return to on-site learning unless:

- They have tested positive to Covid-19 and must self isolate.
- Someone in their household has tested positive or is awaiting test results and is self isolating.

Learning from home will be provided for	Learning from home will not be provided for
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners with complex medical needs. • Learners who are self isolating because they or someone in their household are awaiting test results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners who are kept at home as their parents deem it unsafe to return to school. • Learners who contract covid-19 (these children are deemed unwell and as such should give priority to rest and recuperation)

Class Trips and visitors on-site

Whilst under the **orange** light setting Bayview School will go on school trips that support learning.

We will begin to invite outside agencies to run programmes in the school such as PE/sports groups, or performers in school where we can have smaller groups of children involved.

We will also be able to invite parents and grandparents to work alongside learners supporting their reading.

We will run our Kapa Haka group and choir.

Contact Tracing Plan

We no longer are required to use our covid QR codes but as a school we have decided to keep these displayed around the school for those who would like to continue scanning in.

Visitors to the school must still sign in using the tablet in the office. NB you do not need to do this if you are just dropping off/picking up your child.

If a case of Covid-19 is confirmed we need to stop the spread and will be required to provide a range of documentation to the MOH under their guidance. This may include:

- The attendance register for the affected habitat.
- Our visitor register.
- Our staff movements within the given timeframe.

If your contact details change at any time e.g. you change your email or mobile number, please let the office know asap. You can email shannons@bayview.school.nz or phone the school office (09)4442222.

Confirmed cases at Bayview School

We will follow the advice and direction given by the MOH and MOE.

Step 1	A covid case is identified in school either from our MOE advisor, or from an affected family, or from a GP or other health professional.
Step 2	The school will liaise with the MOE/MOH
Step 3	All learners will be able to continue attending school.
Step 4	The details of the covid positive person will be shared with the Ministry of Education covid response team.
Note	Only positive covid affected children and children living in a household with a covid positive person must self isolate for 7 days.

If a staff member tests positive the steps as outlined above will be followed.

Any staff member who needs to self isolate will be required to do so for the approved length of time: Phase 3 = 7 days.

In this case the school will endeavour to provide a reliever in that class for the duration of the self isolation period.

If the school is unable to provide a reliever we will do our best to provide cover.

If we are unable to provide cover (potentially due to a high number of staff having to self isolate) we may need to ask parents to keep their children at home for a specified period.

In extreme circumstances i.e. a high proportion of staff being infected and we are unable to provide enough relief teachers; high numbers of child infections, the Board of Trustees may be asked by the MOH/MOE to close the school for a specified period. This would be an extreme last measure.

Resources

(click on the link to access information)

[Translations | Unite against COVID-19](#)

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

[5. Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0006/latest/whole.html>

[supports available for individuals and families affected by COVID-19](#)

[Family Services Directory website](#)

[Close Contact](#)

[Staying at home](#)

[Advice for people with COVID-19 – Ministry of Health](#)

<https://www.moneyhub.co.nz/food-grants.html>