

24.7.22.

Mask Wearing Policy Update:

Kia Ora Whaanau,

As you are aware, Pukekohe North School recommences for Term 3 tomorrow, Monday 25 July 2022.

As there has been an increase in COVID-19 and winter virus numbers, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education are strongly recommending that kura/schools request mask wearing from Year 4 and above aakonga/students, adults and visitors to school when indoors.

This is initially for a period of 4 weeks that ends on 19.8.22 unless The Ministry of Health advises differently.

Mask wearing can reduce the transmission of viruses by up to 53%.

Therefore, as of tomorrow, we are asking our aakonga/students to wear masks to kura/school.

We have good supplies of masks if you have run out at home.

We also ask whaanau to wear masks when on site, again, we have spares for you.

If you have an exemption not to wear a mask bring this with you.

If possible, only come to kura/school if you have important business.

We can handle most drop offs of items for the tamariki and collection for appointments through the school office.

We are looking forward to a great term.

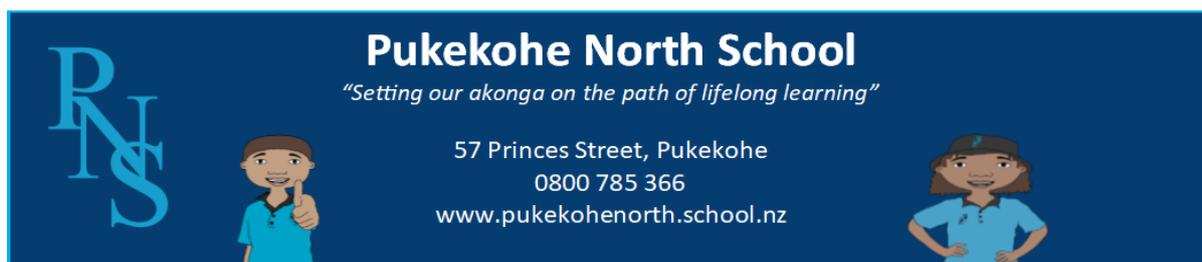
Please work with us over the next four weeks to keep the aakonga/students safe.

Please review our policy below.

Nga mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Matua Jim', written over a horizontal line.

Matua Jim



Mask Wearing Policy (Updated)

Rationale:

Aotearoa/New Zealand is experiencing a dramatic upturn in the number of people affected by COVID-19 and winter viruses. Mask wearing is an effective tool to reduce the spread of air-borne viruses such as COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education strongly recommend that all schools and kura amend their mask policy for the **first four weeks** of Term 3 to require mask wearing in all indoors for students Year 4 and above, where it will not impact teaching and learning.

Guidelines:

1. Unless there is an exemption card or letter provided that prevents a mask be worn, all kaimahi/staff, visitors to the kura/school, and aakonga/students in Year 4-5-6-7-8, will wear masks when indoors.
2. School gates will open from 8.15.a.m- 8.45.a.m each morning.
3. The kura/school leadership team will monitor arrivals at the Princes and Beatty Road school gates from 8.15-8.45.a.m. daily to ensure that masks are worn on entry from Monday 25 July 2022.
4. From 8.45.a.m. to 2.45.p.m. our kura/school office kaimahi/ staff will ensure anyone who enters the kura/school is wearing a mask.
5. Entry into the kura/school grounds will be restricted to urgent or important business only. (delivery of items to aakonga/students, whaanau of new enrolments, sports coaches, agency staff, pick-ups) Most actions will be covered by a visit to our school administration office and will not require entry into the kura/school grounds)
6. No mask, no entry.
7. Good ventilation and social-distancing practices will be followed as much as practicable within classrooms and social gathering situations such as kura/school assemblies, kapa haka, and sports team practices.
8. Hand-sanitising, when aakonga/students re-enter classrooms, remains unchanged.
9. This policy will be posted on the school website, through skool loop, Facebook and at our three points of entry to the school.
10. This policy will remain in place until Friday 19 August 2022 and be under regular review that may require further extension past the initial four-week timeframe.

Conclusion:

The public health advice clearly shows that mask wearing is a strong tool in the defence against the transmission of COVID-19 and other airborne respiratory viruses. Masks are effective at preventing transmission of COVID-19 to a contact or preventing transmission of COVID-19 from a case.

Useful Links and Resources:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/keep-up-healthy-habits/face-masks/>

Signed: Dr Shane Edwards



Presiding Chair/Commissioner

Date: 24 July 2022