



13 September 2022

Kia ora whanau and caregivers,

### **New long-term strategy for COVID-19**

You'll be aware that at midnight last night, New Zealand moved to a new, long-term approach to COVID-19. These changes have been made based on public health advice and reflect high levels of immunity and declining case numbers across New Zealand.

This new approach will only result in minor changes to the way we operate.

The very positive news is that household contacts of a person with COVID-19 do not need to isolate, but instead are asked to complete a RAT test each day, for five days. Therefore, ākongā (students) who are household contacts but test negative and do not have COVID-19 symptoms, should continue to attend school. It is the best place for them to be so they can be engaged in their learning, and connected with their teachers, classmates and friends.

Information on how to get RAT kits can be found here: [Request a RAT – Ministry of Health](#)

Mask wearing is no longer required at school or on MOE bus transport.

All the other recommended public health measures will stay in place as we know they reduce the spread of infectious illnesses including COVID-19. These include ensuring our indoor spaces are well-ventilated, maintaining good hand hygiene, encouraging everyone to cough or sneeze into elbows and, most importantly, staying home and getting tested if they have COVID-19 symptoms.

After being restricted for so long we are all looking forward to getting back to our great Ngunguru 'normal'. It has certainly been a difficult journey and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support in protecting our community.

Noho ora mai

Rick Sayer  
Principal  
Ngunguru School