

25 July 2022

**Parents/ whanau**

## Masking up for the start of Term 3



In previous years we have found there is an increase in winter illnesses in schools at the start of Term 3 as students bring back infections after travelling and socialising during the holidays. This year cases of COVID-19 are increasing in most parts of the country, and we are also seeing high numbers of other winter illnesses.

For the start of Term 3, 2022, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health strongly recommend that all schools amend their mask policy for the first four weeks of term to require mask wearing in all indoor settings for students in Years 4 and above.

With this in mind, **Mayfield Primary strongly advocates for mask wearing for all staff and students while indoors, in particular Year 4 to Year 6.** While masks are not compulsory, we strongly recommend they are worn. This recommendation does not include any situation where mask-wearing might not be practicable, such as while eating and drinking, playing certain musical instruments, indoor sport, etc.

In addition, we ask that **parents and visitors who come onto the school grounds continue to wear masks, particularly if you are going into classrooms.**

Wearing masks can reduce new cases of the virus by as much as 53%. It works alongside other measures including vaccination, good ventilation, staying home when sick, and hand washing and other hygiene measures, to protect our students and staff. **Face Masks**  
<https://covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/keep-up-healthy-habits/face-masks/>



Adult-sized masks can generally be adjusted to fit older children by tying knots in the ear loops. Unite Against COVID-19 shows how to do this:

We know that some of our students/ākonga are exempt from wearing a mask. If they have an exemption card or a letter from their health provider, or we have agreed that mask wearing is not practicable for them, we will support them to not wear a mask.