



Policy requiring Mask usage within Whanganui Intermediate School

22 July 2022

Dear Whānau

On the recommendation of the Ministries of Education and Health Whanganui Intermediate has undertaken a risk assessment and will be introducing a policy for students to wear masks indoors in response to a continuing high rate of respiratory illness and COVID in the community along with the usual trend of increased respiratory illness in the weeks after Term 3 break.

This policy will come into effect on Monday 25 July 2022 and will be reviewed before the end of Week 4 of Term 3 to determine if it needs to continue, be modified, or cease to apply. This policy is in addition to requirements for mask wearing at Orange under the government's COVID Protection Framework. The school will endeavour to provide masks for those who are not able to organise this before Monday.

Our Policy:

All employees, students and visitors are required to wear a mask upon entering and remaining within Whanganui Intermediate School. The mask must cover the nose, mouth and chin and be worn in any indoor space on the school premises, for example, classrooms, school office, sickbay, and shared toilets. Masks are not required when students and staff are outside and can maintain at least a one-metre distance from each other.

The following persons are not required to wear a mask or provide proof of exemption:

- Children under the age of 7 (Y3 and below)
- Persons with medical conditions who cannot safely wear masks (e.g. due to breathing, cognitive, hearing, or communication difficulties).
- Persons who cannot wear or remove a mask without assistance.
- Employees who are in an area of the premise that is not designated for public access, e.g. personal offices not shared by others.

Temporary removal of the masks is permitted where necessary for the following purposes:

- Consuming food or drink
- For any emergency or medical purpose

This policy will be implemented and enforced in "good faith" to educate students and caregivers on masks and face coverings and to promote their use in enclosed school spaces to keep all students and staff safe.

- Persons with exemptions are not required to show proof of exemption.
- Signs about the requirement to wear masks shall be posted at all public entrances.
- Persons entering or remaining without a mask will be given a verbal reminder of the school's policy regarding masking requirements.
- Staff will be trained on the policy, including where and how to wear a mask correctly and how to help and respond to students or caregivers who do not have a mask.
- A copy of this policy will be made available on request and posted on our school website.