

**St Mary's Catholic School, Hastings.**

## **COVID 19 LOCKDOWN UPDATE - MOVE TO ALERT LEVEL 3**

31 August 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau

Some information from the Ministry of Education regarding **cybersecurity and content filtering** for students working at home (links are underlined) **safe TV viewing and Vaccine consents for 12 - 15 yr olds.**

For personal devices, we suggest using Network 4 Learning's simple but effective content filtering service [Switch on safety](#) for students learning from home. All parents are encouraged to take advantage of this free service. It's a universally available support for learner devices once they are off the school site and not protected by your internet filtering service.

It's important to note however that content filters are not a complete protection from online harm and should be used in conjunction with other cyber security precautions (for example, anti-virus software) and appropriate supervision.

- [Netsafe](#) supports schools with online safety to ensure that all New Zealand kura and schools and their communities have access to quality advice and support for digital safety and security.
- [Cert NZ](#) also provides advice on cybersecurity and any student experiencing incidents can report them directly.
- Another great resource for parents and young people is the [Department of Internal Affairs' Keep it real online campaign](#).

### **Safe TV Viewing**

More time at home can see young people watching more TV, and potentially watching outside their normal viewing hours – which can increase the risk they will encounter unsuitable viewing. Tools are available to help parents protect students from TV content that may harm them.

A practical guide to the latest tools (including parental locks, classifications, advisories, warnings and timebands) plus an informative video from Jordan 'How to DAD' Watson is available at [safeviewing.co.nz](http://safeviewing.co.nz).

These tools are overseen by the Broadcasting Standards Authority, which provides [further useful information here](#).

### **Vaccine Consents**

The Government approved a vaccine to immunise and protect 12 to 15-year-olds. The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine has been approved by our Medsafe experts. This vaccine is also used for 12 to 15-year-olds in other countries such as Canada, USA, Europe and Japan.

Here is a [video you can watch](#) to explain how the vaccine works.

Many parents and whānau would like to provide informed consent on behalf of their young person. The easiest way to do this is for a parent or caregiver to be present during vaccination and provide verbal consent. You can book your young person in for vaccination at the same time as your vaccination or accompany them to their appointment.

You can book through your GP or through vaccination centres:

- Book online through [Book My Vaccine](#)
- For a **group booking**, call the COVID Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 (8am–8pm, seven days a week).

A reminder for those families whose children will be returning to school tomorrow.

**St Mary's Catholic School will be operating under ALERT LEVEL 3 conditions when school reopens tomorrow. Our day to day operations must ensure that all times the health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is paramount.**

#### Entry and exit to school

-The school gate will be open for students between 8.30am and 8.50am (no earlier) NO parents/caregivers or other adults will be permitted to enter the school site (past the entry gate) This ensures the safety of our 'school bubble'. Students are to be collected at 2.45pm.

-We ask that you bring your child/children to school, practising SOCIAL DISTANCING (2 metres apart from others) and leave your child at the gate for them to make their own way to class. At home time as you wait outside the gate for your child to exit, please practise SOCIAL DISTANCING. It is very important that we model correct 'safety behaviours' for our students.

-Students must bring a named drink bottle, packed morning tea and lunch and their device to school - no other personal possessions.

-Should students be bringing their Chrome/Laptop to school, it must be hygienically wiped down each day before entering school. Students will wipe down their devices before taking them home.

-Any student that has or develops an illness, MUST NOT attend school. We ask that you discuss and practise 'correct coughing and sneezing techniques' with your children. Students who become unwell at school will be sent home immediately.

-All siblings from one family will be in the same bubble.

-Bubbles are grouped generally into junior/middle and senior school students (this will be dependent on student numbers) Bubbles will not mix.

-There will be strict hygiene and physical distancing that will be adhered to by all attending school. In class, students will sit and work in one space only. Inside the school gates students will practise 1 metre PHYSICAL DISTANCING. Outside the gate students and adults must maintain a 2 metre distance away from anyone else.

-All bathrooms and classrooms have hand sanitizer.

-The school Uniform and Sick Bay areas will not be operating.

-Students will sanitize their hands prior to leaving classrooms at the end of the day.

-Students are not required to wear masks within the school site, however if they wish to do so, they may.

-We ask that you limit any visits to the School Office. Please email/phone in your queries. Should it be necessary to visit the Office, you must wear a mask. No non-essential visitors will be permitted into the school site.

-Teachers will continue to send Home Learning Programmes to ALL students. This means that all students who attend school will continue to participate in their own online Home Learning Programme supervised by teachers and Learning Assistants. Students working at home will NOT BE disadvantaged by not being at school. Home Learning will continue to be sent to you by your child's teacher.

Our staff at St Mary's will do their utmost to ensure the safety of students during COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 3, however we cannot guarantee that students will have absolutely no physical contact with others during the day or not be coughed/sneezed over.

Kind regards  
Liz Crowley and Staff

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