

14 April 2022

Dear Parents / Family / Whānau

You will be aware that the Minister of Education, Chris Hipkins has announced the move to Orange as from 11:59pm last night.

I wanted to give you an update on what the move to Orange means for our school.

At Orange, face masks are no longer officially required at school. However public health advice is that masks continue to be strongly encouraged when indoors. Health experts state that wearing a mask is a key health measure that slows the spread of COVID-19 in indoor settings. For this reason, we are seeking your feedback on four potential mask wearing options before deciding on how we will navigate the next few weeks and months. Please use the link below to state your preference.

Please note that at Orange, students are still required to wear a face mask on school or public transport and we will be continuing to ask students to wear masks during assemblies in the PAC. We also ask that visitors to the school, including parents and whānau, wear a mask whenever they are indoors on school grounds.

We will continue to keep all the other health measures in place at school that we know slow the spread of COVID-19. These include ensuring our indoor spaces are well-ventilated, maintaining good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette, appropriate physical distancing whenever we can and, most importantly, staying home if we are sick.

We are looking forward to a few less restrictions and returning to school life that is a bit closer to normal.

Link to questionnaire on mask wearing: <https://forms.gle/t6y4b8vq4pRwuYmMA>

Sincerely,



**Russell Gordon**  
**Principal**