



He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua  
Free Kindergarten Association Incorporated

## He Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens – Covid-19 Protection Framework (CPF) Parent and Whānau Information

### At RED setting

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Tēnā Koutou

As you will be aware, yesterday the Prime Minister announced that because the Omicron variant of Covid-19 has been detected in the community, all of Aotearoa New Zealand would move to the Red setting of the **Covid-19 Protection Framework (CPF) from 11.59 last night.**

A number of communities have already experienced living in the Red setting, and so we are experienced and prepared for our kindergartens to operate in this setting.

We welcome you and your child/ren to kindergarten and ask you to be aware of the following in relation to the Red setting:

#### **Wearing a Mask or Face Covering**

Mask-wearing to and from kindergarten (eg, when someone gets out of their car to walk to the kindergarten) and while at kindergarten is **required** for all people 12 years and over. We ask you to keep your masks on while you are on the kindergarten grounds – ie. both inside and outside the kindergarten building. Staff working with children are not required to wear masks or face coverings, but may do so if they wish. Masks must fully cover both the nose and mouth of the wearer.

Mask wearing for adults (including those aged 12 years and over) when attending a celebration, community event, or excursion is **required**. This includes staff if the celebration, community event, or excursion is off site (ie. not in the kindergarten grounds).

We know that some people may not be able to wear a face covering and therefore have an exemption. Parents and whānau with mask exemptions should continue to maintain other public health measures. If our teachers have significant concerns for the health or wellbeing of specific children or staff in our kindergarten (e.g. They may have a fragile medical condition) we may discuss alternative ways to accommodate people with mask exemptions .

#### **Children's Attendance at Kindergarten**

Ministry of Education advice is: *Parents/caregivers who can supervise their children at home are encouraged to do so.* However, the Prime Minister has indicated that the country may be at the Red setting for several weeks. This means that teaching teams will work closely with you to support you to do what's best for your child/ren and whānau.

**Parents/caregivers of children with complex medical needs** should seek advice from their health professional about whether it is appropriate to come to kindergarten.

#### **Mandatory Vaccinations**

Please remember that the Mandatory Vaccination system is separate to the Covid Protection (Traffic Light) Framework. We need to apply the mandatory vaccination rules at all colours of the traffic light system.

- The Covid-19 Protection Framework (CPF) replaces the Covid-19 Alert Levels
- The Mandatory Vaccination system remains in place. It means that all staff, parents, whānau, and other volunteers aged 12 years and over who are participating in kindergarten activities when children are present must have already received their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, and be fully vaccinated by 1 January 2022. Kindergarten activities includes during and after session time. We are required to keep a register of all of these people.
- Contact tracing remains in place. This helps to trace people if someone becomes infected with Covid.

Therefore, Kindergartens are required to have all of the following in place:

<b>Covid-19 Protection Framework (CPF)</b>	<b>plus</b>	<b>Vaccine Mandate (Mandatory Vaccination System)</b>	<b>plus</b>	<b>Contact Tracing</b>
The "Traffic Light" system  Requires us to insist that the Covid Pass is used (or people have an exemption) for events sponsored by the kindergarten when children may be present.		Requires us to keep an up to date register with the vaccination status of contractors, staff, parents, whānau, and other volunteers aged 12 years and over who are onsite or participating in kindergarten activities when children are present. This is why we need you to send through evidence of your vaccination to our covid email address <a href="mailto:Covidvac@wmkindergartens.org.nz">Covidvac@wmkindergartens.org.nz</a> , (note: it can't be a photo of the Covid Pass)		Requires us to have the COVID tracer QR code available for people to scan, and requires families to sign-in and sign-out their child/ren as usual

The main point about the Mandatory Vaccination system as it applies to family/whānau is that volunteers, parent helpers and people who spend time in the kindergarten do need to be vaccinated and do need to provide vaccination evidence. We have determined that this applies to those who spend more than 30 minutes at a kindergarten.

It does not apply to parents dropping off or collecting children or settling children for less than 30 minutes.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience during these challenging times. We know you will understand that it is a balancing act for kindergartens. We need to follow all the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education rules to reduce the chances of people (especially our children) being infected with Covid-19.

We are also determined to retain our inclusive friendly and welcoming environment for all our parents and whānau.

Should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to discuss this with your head teacher or email the [Covidvac@wmkindergartens.org.nz](mailto:Covidvac@wmkindergartens.org.nz), and thanks again for your cooperation and support.