



PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Tom Vanderlaan
Principal

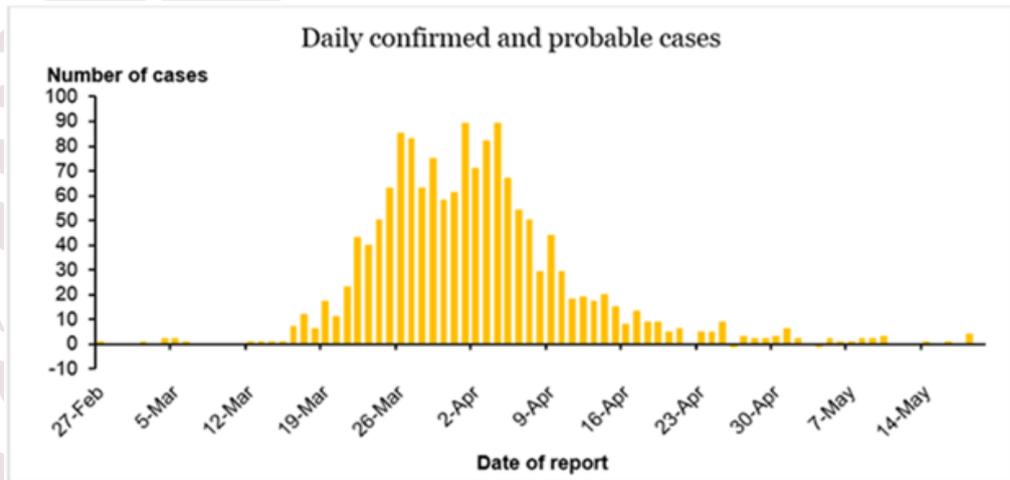
Covid 19 Level 2 Update

Kiaora Koutou to our Waiuku College Community

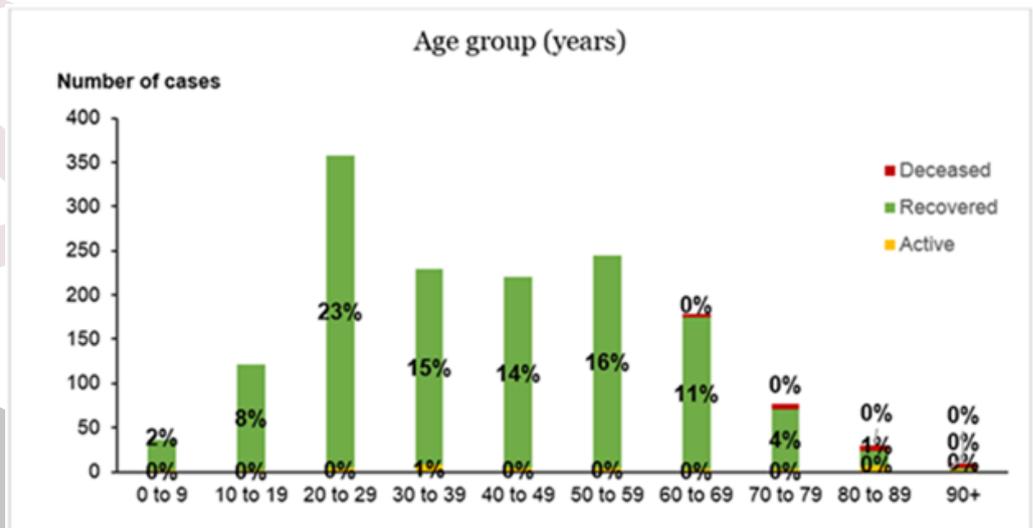
We have been extremely pleased with the response of our students to attendance and learning at school in this first full week of school back after the 2 months of Lockdown. Our average attendance for the week has been over 85% and we have had full explanations for all the absent students, including a small number who have elected to continue with distance learning at home. My thanks to Mrs Roy in the attendance office for the excellent work she has done.

There is still concern in some areas about the risks of returning to school. The Ministry of Education has shared the following information with me which I can pass on to you.

New Zealand is experiencing very low numbers of new cases as can be seen in the below chart. There has been only one case in the last 5 days and that was a person in isolation related to an earlier known case.



In terms of demographics (the ages of Covid cases), this chart below shows that children and young people continue to account for only a small proportion of cases in New Zealand. There are no known active cases under the age of 19.



DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 2 ends 3 July

Queen's Birthday
Monday 1st &
Tuesday 2nd June

Please note that the newsletter is emailed to parents\caregivers, so please ensure we have your correct email address.

The newsletter is also available on our website.

PRIDE
RESPECT
SAFETY

Key messages are:

- Our schools are safe. Even though there is such a low risk of the virus getting in the school gates to start with, we will be keeping up our hygiene practices and other public health measures as an extra precaution for as long as we're at Alert Level 2
- The return to school has gone really smoothly and it has been brilliant to see how excited the children have been to get back to their learning and social routines
- We know some of our families are still feeling a bit anxious about sending their children back to school, which is understandable given everything we have been through these past 2 months
- It's really important children do return to school, not just for their education but also their health and well-being
- Instances of Covid-19 in New Zealand are very low
- We're aware of concerns out there that people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. The Ministry of Health has advised us that there is no instance in New Zealand of someone spreading the virus without ever having symptoms

Police Powers Rumours

In some NZ communities there are rumours on social media around police picking up students. The Secretary of Education has asked us to share the following message:

Early this week, and again today I have been alerted to social media that is wrong, and is creating fear amongst parents because it says that a law passed on 13 May gives powers to Police and others to uplift children from school if they appear unwell and forcibly administer medication. Police have not been given any such powers. If a child is unwell at school the parents or caregivers will be contacted in the usual way to collect their child. There is no change to school practice in this regard.

Schools and early childhood services are excluded from the requirements of the Level 2 Order apart from having to have appropriate contact, physical distancing, and hygiene measures in place. The information being circulated about the impact of the Order on schools is wrong.

Iona Holsted

Secretary for Education

Distance Learning

Teachers will send out distance learning information again for the upcoming week, but may also be starting to incorporate direct instruction and practical activities that student should be taking part in.

Interviews with Seniors

We also are planning to use senior staff to do Academic Counselling with all Year 12 and Year 13 students this week. We will be discussing their goals for the year, their academic progress to date, effects of the lockdown on learning and achievement, plans moving forward and their personal wellbeing. Appointment times will be informed by e-mails to students.

Sport is back soon!

We have been informed that entries for winter sports codes can start to be made next week with the possibility of some competitions starting in early June. More information coming soon.

Long Queens Birthday Weekend

A reminder again that the school will be closed for Tuesday June 2nd to allow for a 4 day mid-term break. Enjoy

Nga Mihi Kia Koutou and have a great Weekend

Tom Vanderlaan

Principal