



26 October 2021

Kia ora koutou KTS community

You're aware of Government's decision that all staff and workers who may have contact with children and students in schools must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by 1 January 2022. This measure has the support of education entities including the representative bodies of teachers and principals.

As the employer, we are responsible for ensuring the Government's Health Orders are put into practice.

The health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and everyone involved in the safe operation of Kohia Terrace School is something we take very seriously. As with other diseases that many of us are vaccinated from (measles, meningitis, pneumonia, tetanus and polio), without vaccination we're at risk of serious illness, disability and in extreme cases, even death.

Because not everyone can be vaccinated – including very young babies, or those who have certain allergies – they depend on us to be vaccinated to ensure they are also safe from vaccine-preventable diseases. By getting vaccinated against COVID-19, we are protecting ourselves and protecting those around us.

By getting vaccinated, we're less likely to get sick from COVID-19, and we're also less likely to pass it on. A fully vaccinated education workforce provides reassurance for parents and whānau that it's safe for their children and young people to attend school, and benefit from being with their friends and face-to-face learning with their teachers. The vast majority of our teachers and staff have already chosen to vaccinate to protect themselves and their learners and whānau.

We appreciate all the efforts of parents and families to keep children and young people safe and engaged in their learning.

Thanks you to all those KTS families that have already chosen to vaccinate. Here are some resources you many find helpful if you are still considering vaccination or when discussing vaccination with family and friends. The higher our community's vaccination rate, the safer we will be from COVID-19, so it helps if we all reach out to our friends and family to help make our vaccination rates as high as possible.

The UNITE AGAINST COVID-19 website allows you to easily book your vaccine for everyone aged 12 and over. There are many places to get your vaccine in our area.

<https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/how-to-get-a-covid-19-vaccination/book-your-covid-19-vaccination/>

The UNITE AGAINST COVID-19 website has resources in many formats and languages.

<https://covid19.govt.nz/iwi-and-communities/translations/>

Here is a recent article in The Herald where University of Auckland vaccinologist Associate Professor Helen Petousis-Harris looks at [10 vaccine myths circulating on social media](#).

This Brochure "Get the facts" might be helpful for you to talk about the vaccine with your children, whānau and friends.

https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/School/SchoolsBulletin/2021-Bulletins/2021COVID/Oct-COVID-documents/HP7755_Get-the-Facts_DL_Brochure_V15.pdf

This [link](#) takes you to an interaction information site, or if you prefer to watch a video on the vaccine, here are some resources:

- Nigel Latta, Dr Maia Brewerton and Dr Helen Petousis-Harris recently [answered questions in a Facebook live event](#).
- Dr Ashley Bloomfield, Dr Nikki Turner, Dr Siouxsie Wiles and Dr Vanisi Prescott recently [answered questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine](#), moderated by Mihingarangi Forbes.

Best wishes for you all in your bubbles.

Ngā mihi,

Oliver Shaw, Kathleen Mistry and Alison Spence on behalf of the *Kohia Terrace School Board*

