



14 October 2021

## **Vaccination status COVID-19 Information for parents and students of Tauranga Girls' College**

Tēnā koe whānau/parents/caregivers/students

I am writing to you in response to the government's recent vaccination announcement. All those that work in schools are mandated to be fully vaccinated by 1 January 2022. Already I have staff sharing their vaccination status/cards with me.

The school is also required to record the vaccination status of those students/learners that are enrolled at Tauranga Girls' College and with whom we work alongside and who are eligible to have received a vaccination (i.e anyone over the age of 12).

**This email asks you to be ready for when this occurs** as we will require **official evidence of the vaccination status** which shows:

1. Name of the student attending TGC
2. Vaccination status and evidence of this. That is, one dose or fully vaccinated (vaccination card, official letter or email from GP or their nurse qualifies as official information).
3. If the student is exempt, an official medical note stating this.

This information will be held by us in accordance with the Privacy Act and will only be shared with public health authorities.

The response by New Zealanders to this latest outbreak has been strong, with high rates of testing and more and more people getting vaccinated. Thank you if you are already vaccinated as encouraged by the government.

If we were to have a case of COVID-19 in our school, public health authorities would want to know if we are a school with a high vaccination rate. This information will then be used as part of the local health authority's risk assessment. The more highly vaccinated we are (staff and eligible students), the less likely it will be that we will have to close for a long period of time, or we might not need to close at all.

Because we know how important it is to remain open and to have face to face teaching, your support in ensuring we can remain open by being vaccinated is key to us achieving this and clearly supports Health and Safety in our school.

We are therefore getting our data collection system in place and will get in touch with you again very soon. **Please do not send information yet.**

More than 5.7 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine have now been given in New Zealand (as of 7 October 2021):

- 53 percent are fully vaccinated (2 doses) = 2.2 million New Zealanders
- 81 percent have had their first dose = 3.4 million New Zealanders
- 86 percent of Aucklanders have had their first dose
- 61 percent of Aucklanders have had their second dose

As of 3 October 2021, 86 percent of Pacific Peoples and 90 percent of Māori aged 65 and over had received their first dose (compared with 93 percent of non-Māori and Non-Pacific) and our average daily numbers for Māori getting their first dose have increased by 69 percent in the last fortnight.

While the signs are really pleasing, we have a little more mahi to do. If you require more information visit the Ministry of Health or other official website.

The two best things we can do to keep our community as safe as possible is to **get tested** if you are feeling unwell and have covid-19 symptoms **and get everyone who is eligible vaccinated.**

Thank you for your support of our school and of our community. I will be in touch regarding the collection of your daughter's vaccination status (for those eligible) soon. I ask that you be prepared for this. Only students currently in Years 9-12 will be required to provide this information as Yr 13 will have left school.

Ngā mihi nui



Tara Kanji  
Tumuaki/Principal



Yvonne Handley  
Board Chair