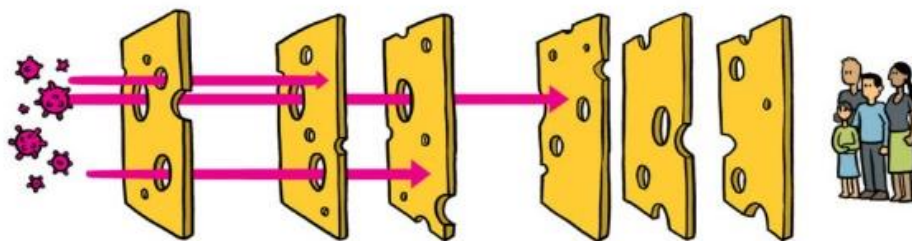


What we are doing to reduce the risk of COVID-19

The public health measures in school and kura settings mean that the risk of transmission of COVID-19 is reduced. Schools and kura have robust record-keeping and COVID-19 protocols in place, and this allows contact identification to occur rapidly.

There are many things that schools and kura can do to further reduce the risk and impact of a COVID-19 case in their environments. It is useful to conceptualise this as having layers of preventative measures in place to protect staff and students, as the cheese model below explains. The more layers of protection in place (eg, good hygiene practices, handwashing, ventilation, cleaning and disinfecting high touch areas regularly etc.), the harder it is for the virus to get through.



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To help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, we are:

- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
- Creating a culture where face covering wearing is normalised
- Maintaining physical distancing as much as possible
- Encouraging good hygiene practices
 - Hand hygiene
 - Cough and sneeze etiquette
- Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, including cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces, as well as regular cleaning. We are cleaning hard surfaces between each lesson
- Ensuring children/tamariki, students or staff members with COVID-19 symptoms are sent home immediately and instructed to get a COVID-19 test and remain at home until a negative result is received and they are symptom free for 24 hours
- Reducing mixing of children/tamariki, students and staff
- Following public health advice (testing, self-isolation) for any cases and contacts within the school or kura community.

The Most Significant Factors to reduce the possibility of transmission:

Ventilation

Open or well-ventilated spaces reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air than in spaces with less ventilation.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread from person to person through contact with droplets, which are produced when a person sneezes or coughs, or through other small respiratory particles that are produced when people talk, sing or shout. These small particles can remain in the air for some time and may build up if there is not enough ventilation.

All of our learning spaces have good ventilation.

Masks

At Red, masks are mandated indoors at all times for:

- all students years 4 and above
- all staff / kaimahi
- all visitors in classrooms or in communal areas
- students 12 and over on school or kura transport.

What is an appropriate mask?

Masks need to securely covers the nose and mouth. There are many types of masks available, including cloth and disposable. Masks work best if they are made with multiple layers and form a good fit around the face.

Masks should be made of a material that you find comfortable and breathable, such as cotton. The World Health Organisation recommends **three layers** of fabric. Manatū Hauora / the Ministry of Health recommends you should have enough (washable) masks so each person in your family can wear one and wash one.

It is compulsory for all students to wear masks indoors and on school transport, unless they have a mask exemption.

Vaccination

Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy in managing the COVID-19 pandemic. All whānau and eligible students in each school are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. If you have strong opinions about vaccinations, these do not need to be shared with the school or staff and they will not be responded to.

All staff are fully vaccinated and the vaccination rate in Waipa District is very high (over 90%).

Please note: at this stage there is no planned vaccination programme occurring at Te Awamutu College. Students and their families have been accessing community vaccination sites.