



# TE AROHA COLLEGE

*A purpose joyful; A courage blameless*

## COVID-19 Update, 27 August 2021

106 Stanley Ave  
Te Aroha 3320

P O Box 218  
Te Aroha 3342

Ph. 07 8848625  
admin@tacol.nz

PRINCIPAL  
Mrs Gorrie

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS  
Mr Jager  
Mr Aitken  
Mr Darby

GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR  
Mr Hartzenburg

YEAR 9 DEAN  
Mr McArdle  
FORM TEACHERS  
Aotea, Mr Rowe  
Arawa, Mrs Oliver  
Tainui, Mr Darby  
Tokomaru, Mr Sweeney

YEAR 10 DEAN  
Mr Aislabie  
FORM TEACHERS  
Aotea, Mr Stringer  
Arawa, Miss Maber  
Tainui, Mr Robinson  
Tokomaru, Mr Ashford-Beck

YEAR 11 DEAN  
Mr Masters  
FORM TEACHERS  
Aotea, Mr Pipe  
Arawa, Mr Kurian  
Tainui, Mrs Spindler  
Tokomaru, Mrs Lemon

YEAR 12 DEAN  
Mr Aitken  
FORM TEACHERS  
Aotea, Mr Stringer  
Arawa, Ms Baylis  
Tainui, Ms Scott  
Tokomaru, Ms Hagan

YEAR 13 DEAN  
Ms Gemmell  
FORM TEACHERS  
Aotea, Mrs Jager  
Arawa, Mr Rekatsinas  
Tainui, Ms McLaren  
Tokomaru, Mr Steffert



## Shift to Alert Level 3 on Wednesday 01 September

Kia ora koutou,

The Alert Level has been reviewed today, Friday afternoon 27th of August.

**We will remain at Alert Level 4 until Tuesday 11.59pm. We will then move to Alert Level 3 on Wednesday 1st September.**

### Online Learning Continuing for Students at Te Aroha College

Our distance learning programme will continue on Monday 30th August and for next week. We will be reaching out on Monday to eligible families who may need students to attend school in accordance with the Alert Level 3 requirements for essential workers. We will put out further information for parents over the weekend as it is provided by the Ministry of Education to advise who is eligible for this.

Please note if you or your student are concerned about school work or need additional support please get in **contact with your student's Form Teacher or Dean**. They are happy to help with delivery of materials or organise other staff for support. Mr Jager is acting as our Delivery Agent and will drop off any necessary materials that may be needed for this coming week.

A PURPOSE JOYFUL A COURAGE BLAMELESS  
HE WAKA EKE NOA HE TU MANAWANUI KI TE KEI O TE WAKA



### **Changes to NCEA Exams and School Exams**

Ms Scott posted changes to both our practice exams and the NCEA final exams that will support our senior students. It is really important however that all senior students are regularly attending their online classes, keeping up with their studies and requesting help to get as much of their assessment work completed as is possible. If you have questions about NCEA please contact Rachel Scott, Principal's Nominee [rscott@tacol.nz](mailto:rscott@tacol.nz)

The NZQA revised examination timetable for exams is available on line at NZQA.

NCEA External Exams will take place from Monday 22 November to Tuesday 14 December (assuming we are no higher than Alert Level 2).

Students should talk to their teachers about their exam entries before Tuesday 31 August. Students cannot be entered into exams after Tuesday 31 August (unless in exceptional circumstances).

Practice Exams will take place in the first and second weeks of Term 4, on Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd, Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th of October. These exams are very important as they provide a Derived Grade in case of illness or unexpected event during the NCEA exams. If students do not have a Derived Grade, they are not able to receive any credits if the NCEA exams are cancelled.

Year 11 Maths students sitting the MCAT - your new date for your MCAT is now Tuesday 28 September. Miss Park will go through this with you later.

Digital Technology students sitting the DCAT - there is no change to your DCAT date. It is still Wednesday 27 October. This is now during Practice Exam week. We will endeavour to ensure you do not have another exam that day. Mr Sweeney will go through this with you later.

There are no changes to credit numbers or University Entrance requirements at this stage.



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### Message from School Nurse

If you need the school nurse during Alert Level 4 and 3 you can contact her on 0226810929 or email: [csemmens@tacol.nz](mailto:csemmens@tacol.nz) on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays. If urgent please contact Health Te Aroha/ Te Korowai health or Healthline 0800 611 116. Remember 1737 is available to text anytime to speak to a trained counsellor.

### Counseling and Community Support

We know some families in our community may be finding it difficult to access food and essential items such as medicine. This information about [how to access to food or essential items](#) summarises the support that is available, including financial help to buy food.

As part of the Community of Learning schools we are able to support families by offering counseling support from the Psychology Centre. This is private, confidential and free online counseling for parents and students. Please contact their staff if you wish to use this service.

[Natalie@tpc.org.nz](mailto:Natalie@tpc.org.nz)

[Dawn@tpc.org.nz](mailto:Dawn@tpc.org.nz)

We have also provided further information below from the Ministry of Health. Please do take care and let us know how we can best support you and your whānau.

Kia kaha!

Senior Leadership

Te Aroha College



### Advice From our Health Authorities

You may be wondering how, with so many contacts being identified of confirmed cases, we aren't seeing bigger case numbers identified. Just like the [Delta variant is different](#), so has been New Zealand's response. Previously we might have moved to Alert Level 2 or 3 if there was a new COVID-19 case in the community (which happened most recently in Wellington). This time we moved immediately to Alert Level 4, after only one case had been identified.

Health authorities are also casting a MUCH wider net to determine who is a contact of a confirmed case. People who previously might have been considered a casual contact are now being treated as contacts. Where schools may have closed for three days while contact tracing was undertaken, they are now closing for 14 days with staff and students all self-isolating for that time. As a result, there are more than 13,000 close contacts being followed up by health authorities.

There is a lot we can all do to protect our whānau and community from COVID-19 including:

- Everyone must continue to stay home in their bubble
- Do not mix with other household bubbles – if they have COVID-19, it can easily spread to your household, and every other household they and you are connecting with
- As new cases are identified, [new locations of interest are added to the Ministry of Health website](#) – please keep checking this. You can search by your location and they are sorted by date, so you only need to check the locations which have been added when you last checked
- Wash your hands regularly, especially when you have been out in public
- Stay home if you are feeling unwell and seek advice about whether you need to get a test
- Wear a face covering when out and about, and you MUST wear a face covering in any businesses or services which are open at Alert Level 4 (unless you have specifically been exempted from doing so, which includes anyone aged under 12)
- Keep a two-metre distance from people outside your household bubble
- Check in using the [NZ COVID Tracer App](#) wherever you go or keep a manual record (a reminder the App only stores information on your own phone – no one else will know who it is that checked in, or when)

You can go to the [COVID19.govt.nz website](https://www.covid19.govt.nz) if you would like more information on Alert Level 4 requirements.