



Message from the Tumuaki: Update to Students

Monday 20 September

Current Situation

On Tuesday 17 August 2021 at 4.30pm, our emergency response team, Te Ohu Haumarū, was again activated as our nation went from Alert Level One straight into lockdown that evening when a case of the Delta variant was confirmed on our shores.

With much less time to prepare, we were fortunate that we were able to organise the return of students who had already begun to settle in for Hui Rumaki Reo. We would like to acknowledge those staff and students for their swift actions and cooperation in returning home with very little notice, tēnā koutou katoa.

We have been here before, and it is evident from staff and student feedback that we are all better prepared, have experienced this before, and trust that we will make the right decisions for the wellbeing of our people.

It is too easy to let our guard down when we have been lucky enough to be free while the world has battled. What we have learnt from this second phase of Covid is that Delta is twice as deadly, and we cannot afford or allow ourselves to become complacent. We are here to reconnect our people to the knowledge of our tūpuna and to preserve and grow the mātauranga continuum, and we will continue to do so, no matter what pandemic lies in front of us. With our level four mindset we can give assurance to our people, but it means we all need to evolve and adapt accordingly to the environment around us, just as our tūpuna did in their time.

With our kaupapa guiding the way, Te Ohu Haumarū have re-assessed our situation and with support from both Ngā Pou Herenga and I, we have agreed on the following:

1. To support the development of a Covid Alert Level Matrix. This framework will guide Te Wānanga o Raukawa with decisions as we move forward over the next 12 – 18 months and provide staff and students with assurance that we are prepared no matter what alert level we are in. The matrix is clear about the requirements at each level and for each service or offering.
2. The remaining courses for 2021 will be delivered online. Twice we have had to return students home already, which can be a traumatic and stressful experience and one that we can avoid for the remainder of the year. This is fundamental in providing assurance for you.

3. While the logistics of offering workshops and labs for practical components are significant, we are working with our academic areas to look at how we can continue to offer these components.
4. There are exemptions to our online delivery, including:
 - a. Hui Rumaki Reo – Delivered face to face if at Alert Level 1 nationwide with two weeks' notice to deliver fully online.
 - b. Heke/Poutuarongo Reo – Delivered face to face at Alert Level 2 with revised protocols in place.
 - c. Workshops/Labs – Delivered face to face at Alert Level 2 on a case-by-case basis with packed meals. At Alert Level 1 nationwide delivered face to face with two weeks' notice to deliver fully online.
 - d. Iwi and Hapū Studies Kura Tautoko - At Alert Level 1 nationwide delivered face to face.

We hope this will allow you to prepare for a face-to-face delivery but be equipped to transition online within the timeframe.

As an act of manaakitanga, our academic year has been extended to 30 November 2021 to allow additional time to complete your studies.

At Delta Alert Level 2 and 1

With our revised matrix the key changes for students are:

- bookings are now essential to spend time in the Ōtaki campus library. Book up to two hours through our librarians, masks are to be worn in this space.
- bookings are required to spend time in the Student Hub area. Up to two hours can be booked with Te Tomonga. Masks are to be worn in this space. You can still book an additional two hours in this space for Wā Tautoko, organised through your pūkenga.
- at Delta Alert Level 1 and 2, we are unable to offer accommodation for noho and the main kitchen at the Ōtaki campus remains closed.
- QR codes are now located around buildings on campus as it is now mandatory to contact trace. To sign in, students can use the Te Wānanga o Raukawa APP, QR codes or sign in manually.
- some buildings will have designated entrance and exit doors to assist with the flow of people and support distancing. If you are on campus, we ask that you make yourself familiar with these entrances and exits.

Further communications reiterating these changes will be posted on the website and distributed through the Te Wānanga o Raukawa APP and emails. We encourage you to download the TWoR APP, available in the SchoolAppsNZ in your device's app store, to stay up to date with any important messages.

Financial Support for Students

To date, we have distributed a total of \$50,210.48 to students in financial need due to covid. A further \$9,102.51 has supported students to return home due to lockdowns.

Financial support is still available to assist you. If Covid has been impacting on your ability to continue your learning journey with us, we may be able to provide support both for hardship and connectivity to keep you on track to completing your studies this year. Apply online through our website, <https://www.wananga.com/hardship-fund.html>, all will be considered.

A Level 4 Mindset

No matter what alert level we are in across the country, Te Wānanga o Raukawa remains in a Level 4 mindset.

As always, we encourage you to keep in touch with your pūkenga, look after yourselves, your whānau and each other ā-tinana, ā-wairua, ā-hinengaro.

E kore au e ngaro he kākano i ruia mai i Rangiātea

Nā Mereana Selby
Tumuaki