



YOUR PASS TO YOUR POTENTIAL

PACIFIC ADVANCE SECONDARY SCHOOL

AN INNOVATIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR PASIFIKA BY PASIFIKA

28 January 2022

Talofa lava our dear PASS fānili,

Re: Red Traffic Lights at PASS Update and Changes

On behalf of the school's management team and Board of Trustees, we apologise for the inconvenience, but *due to RED traffic restrictions, PASS must reduce numbers of people inside the buildings beginning next Tuesday 1st February.*

We have moved fully into the COVID-19 new traffic light framework for this year and have reviewed our [Covid-19 Protective Framework at RED](#) setting which advises that schools are able to support learning onsite. *However, there are some key issues we face as a PASS community.*

Ventilation

The Ministry of Education advises that an important strategy to avoid COVID-19 in schools is by providing fresh, flowing air in our learning spaces to minimise risk for talavou and teachers.

However, PASS has **one** teaching block that has no access to fresh air and relies on a shared air conditioning system to cool or warm the room. This option does not meet the health requirements to avoid spread. We are working with the Ministry to further support our ventilation plan.

This means that PASS cannot use 7 of our teaching spaces until we receive air purifiers in classrooms.

Omicron and testing

Omicron is now in our community and the cases are rising. Some of our most vulnerable family members such as our elderly, or those with underlying health issues, even when they are fully vaccinated, could be more affected by Omicron. Omicron is easier to spread than previous strains, and most people who get COVID-19 will *need a plan to fully recover in their own home.*

Face coverings

Staff and talavou in Years 4 – 13 must wear face coverings when inside at school when we are at **Red**. Face coverings must fit properly around the face. This includes single use, disposable masks (medical masks) and reusable fabric masks with three layers. Note that scarves, bandannas, or t-shirts are not appropriate face covering in schools.

Managing cases in our school

Our contact tracing system includes signing in and out of the office and taking a roll call in classes, so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school we can quickly identify who

was a close contact of that person. *It is important that all staff and talavou stay home if unwell with COVID-19 symptoms.*

PASS is a small school with many shared spaces. In the event of the school getting a confirmed case, the school may need to *move to distance learning for everyone. Every PASS student will be provided with an online device to use at home if we move to distance learning.*

Please make sure your contact details and immunisation records we have on file are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed. It is also important to tell us whether or not you have the internet connected at home in case we move to distance learning from home

Preparing for COVID-19 Cases at Home

It is important to prepare for COVID-19, making sure you and your household have a plan and know what to do. This means you will need friends and family outside of your home to help with shopping and getting medicines while you are isolated. Find out more here:

- [Be prepared for COVID-19](#)
- [Download the COVID-19 Readiness Checklist \[PDF, 121 KB\]](#)
- [What to expect when self-isolating at home](#)

Extra support when self-isolating

If you don't have friends and family who can support you with health support and access to food and other essentials, refer to the lists here or call school for advice.

- [Getting extra support if you have COVID-19 or are self-isolating | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [COVID-19 positive – managing your symptoms | Health Navigator NZ](#)

Work and Income support

The beginning of the year can be a tough time for parents who are faced with many costs and it is important you are aware of what assistance you may be able to get from Work and Income. These are available to people on a low income as well as those on a benefit.

Check what you might get here

- [School costs](#)
- [Out of School Care and Recreation \(OSCAR\) Subsidy](#)
- [Other Childcare Assistance](#)
- [School and Year Start-up Payment \(for people getting Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit\)](#)
- [Help with living costs \(including food and rent/mortgage\)](#)

Use the links above or call 0800 559 009 to find out more, or to apply.

MoneyTalks can assist with [free budgeting and debt help](#)

You can also contact your local community provider. [Please find more information here.](#)

Events and activities

Large indoor fono and gatherings are risky at **Red**, *therefore there will be no large gatherings in term 1.*

What does this all mean for PASS talavou and whānau?

1. All PASS staff and talavou must follow COVID-19 health restrictions and stay at home if unwell and get tested.
2. PASS will reduce numbers of talavou and staff members inside the buildings beginning next Tuesday 1st February.
3. We will continue with our So'otaga Induction Week programme with all NEW students everyday, but need to finish early on Tuesday 1st February at 1.30pm. Please call the office or email office@pass.school.nz if you can't manage this early finish time.
4. Other current PASS students Y10-13 **will begin school next Wednesday 2nd February instead of the 1st February.**
5. If your son/daughter is unable to attend school, please inform the office - (09) 276-0375

See outline below:

Day	Time	Who can come to school	Programme
Tuesday 1st February	8am to 1.30pm	All NEW students to PASS Y13 Students	8am Powhiri 9am onwards - New students induction programme (indoor activities - small numbers 9am - parents morning tea
Wednesday 2nd February	8am to 3.15pm	All students	Village meetings Classroom meetings Timetables School Singing (indoor - small numbers /outdoor activities - larger numbers)
Thursday 3rd February	8am to 3.15pm	All students	Village Community Outreach (outdoor activities)
Friday 4th February	8am to 3.15pm	All students	Survivor Village Competition Wenderholm Reserve (outdoor activities)

Next Steps: The management team and Board will be in close communication over the next week to update you all on further operations that may be impacted by COVID-19.

You are invited to attend a special [Talanoa Ako zoom meeting](#) for parents with us, the co-principals next Thursday 3rd January at 7.30pm.

We look forward to meeting you all soon,

Mauri tū, mauri ora!

Ala'imalo Falefatu and Parehuia Enari
Co-principals