

6 May 2022

Dear parents and caregivers

### **Re: Covid-19 Update**

It has been a wonderful start to the new term. The lifting of some of the Covid-19 restrictions has permitted us to resume many of the activities that help us support and nurture young people. Our school assemblies and gatherings have restarted, allowing us to come back together as a unified community. We are also excited to be finally able to meet our parents for our first parent/teacher conferences next week. It is hard to believe that the last time we brought together large cohorts of students and parents in a single venue was nearly two years ago! We are optimistic that the peak of the pandemic is behind us now and we look forward to an uninterrupted year ahead.

I have been encouraged by the support we have received from our parent community throughout the school's Covid-19 response planning but, whilst still optimistic, realise that as a school we must continue to be vigilant particularly as we approach the colder winter months of the year. I assume that as a country we have built up a reasonable level of immunity from viruses but with the opening of our international borders and the onset of the common flu, we may very well find ourselves vulnerable again if we become too complacent.

### **Symptoms**

If you are feeling unwell and/or showing signs of illness, please stay home and seek medical advice. If you have access to Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits, please use them as part of your response plan. The isolation requirements are still in place should you or a household member test positive. It is important that you alert the school if you are isolating at home.

### **Vaccinations**

Covid-19 vaccinations are still considered by the MOH to be our best protection against the virus and its variants, and I encourage all parents to consider this a priority along with the usual common flu vaccinations.

### **Hygiene**

We will continue to ensure that surfaces are regularly cleaned both by staff and our cleaners. Hand sanitisers are still available in every classroom, and it is recommended that students avail themselves of these as they enter and leave the classrooms.

### **Ventilation**

We will continue to ensure that there is adequate ventilation in classrooms. Where appropriate, windows and doors will remain open so that there is fresh air circulating through the room.

## **Masks**

Despite the mask mandate having been removed, we highly recommend that students continue to wear them in class. Masks must still be worn on all public and school buses as well as in all school vans. We will continue to ensure students are fully compliant with this requirement.

With the removal of many of the Covid-19 protection mandates, we are now required to take more personal responsibility for our own health and safety. Please take the time to check in on friends and family to assess their health and wellbeing but also continue to follow basic protocols. If you have symptoms and/or feel unwell, remain at home, and seek medical advice before returning to school.

We have so much to look forward to this term and beyond and trust that we continue to keep ourselves and others safe in order to enjoy all the new 'freedoms' we are currently experiencing.

I look forward to seeing you all at our parent/teacher evenings next week. If there is anything we can help with, please let us know by contacting the main office.

Regards

Mr I L Ropati  
**Principal**