



16 August 2020

Parents and Caregivers

During last Friday evening's address by the Prime Minister she confirmed that the Auckland region will be staying at Alert level 3 and that the rest of New Zealand will be kept at Alert level 2 until midnight Wednesday the 26th of August, with a 21st of August settings review date.

On Friday afternoon staff left school fully prepared to commence distance education this coming Monday, had we been moved to Alert Level 3 on Friday evening. The level of preparation by staff was excellent and they, are all to be commended for their efforts. Although great to know that we won't have to put into action our distance education programme, be assured that last week's preparation now means that if required our school will be able to put into place a distance education programme at very short notice.

Earlier in the term I asked parents and caregivers to indicate whether a school device would be required at home in the event that we ever found ourselves at Alert Level 3 or 4. Devices for those families that indicated a need were also ready to be delivered during this weekend. These devices will also be put aside, ready to be delivered at short notice if required.

While most of us are now well familiar with requirements at Alert Level 2, we will continue to emphasise the importance of:

- Good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette
- Staying away if sick
- Keeping the appropriate physical distance from others
- Cleaning and disinfecting our high touch surfaces daily
- Asking that all the school community download the school's app and use the Covid-19 registration tab when entering and leaving the school grounds.

- Displaying QR code posters at our entrances and encouraging all of our community to download the NZ COVID Tracer App and use it if they come on-site
- Keeping a visitor register for anyone who cannot use the app and for other essential visitors

We know all these things will help to keep our community as safe as possible. As a result of these measures being in place, your child does not need to wear a face covering while at school, but can do so if they wish to.

Thank you for your continued support for all we are doing to keep our children and community safe.

Staff look forward to seeing all our students back at school tomorrow Monday.

Take care.

Luis Echegaray
Principal

The following are relevant updated Alert Level 2 guidelines provided to school's yesterday.

Alert Level 2 information

Who can go to school

All children can attend school at this level. Schools must be open.

Who should not go to school

If people are sick, they should stay home (phone Healthline or their GP and get tested if a doctor or health professional recommends to do so).

Anyone who is self-isolating, or who has been advised by health authorities to remain at home while they wait for their COVID-19 test results must stay home.

Health requirements at school

At Alert Level 2 the disease is contained. It is safe for children and staff to attend schools, early learning services and tertiary education. There will be appropriate measures in place.

Learning will be onsite with distance learning provided for those requiring to self-isolate, those individuals who health authorities have asked to stay away while waiting for a test result, or those choosing to remain at home because they are vulnerable to illness.

Public health requirements must be adhered to so that COVID-19 is prevented from spreading within the school community.

Additional key Alert Level 2 points

- Hand sanitiser at entry to classrooms and in shared spaces. Soap, water and the ability to dry hands must be provided in bathrooms. If hand sanitiser is in short supply, washing and drying hands with soap is still the most effective hygiene measure.
- Children, young people and staff should be far enough away from each other so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, coupled with good hygiene practices and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. There does not need to be a specific measurement but where practicable and reasonable 1 metre can be used as a guide, particularly between adults.
Physical distancing of 2 metres is recommended for parents and caregivers, from people they don't know (to align with public health measures outside the school grounds).
- Disinfect and clean all surfaces daily
- Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment including playgrounds but hygiene practice should be observed before and after playing with equipment. There will also need to be regular cleaning of shared equipment such as balls, sticks etc. Physical distance is not possible in some sporting activities. In these situations extra emphasis on handwashing and drying (or cleansing with hand sanitiser) before and after activities and regular cleaning of equipment is very important.

- To support contact tracing, record all visitors who are on-site for a period of time, including parents and caregivers, in your visitor register (as is usual practice but also to assist if contact tracing is necessary).
For drop offs and pick-ups, if the parent or caregiver uses the app you don't need to capture them in your visitor register.
For parents and caregivers who cannot use the App, you may wish to continue to record their details in a simple register when they do pick-ups and drop-offs.
- Teachers are able to teach more than one group/class of students
- Other schools' students can come on-site during the week and for school-run out of hours' programmes. External providers can come onsite including for example other teachers and team coaches/managers.
- Shared supplies and equipment are able to be used if students and staff are undertaking regular hand washing and staying away if sick.
- Regarding water fountains - consider whether appropriate to use, particularly are students capable of using them safely? Encourage using water bottles where possible.

Information that is common to Alert Levels 2 and 3

Public health requirements at all Alert levels

If people are sick, they should stay home (phone Healthline or their GP if they have COVID-like symptoms and get tested if advised to do so):

- Staff are to observe students/children on arrival checking for symptoms and ask those presenting as unwell to go home or arrange for parents and caregivers to come and pick up. Please note, this does not mean that temperatures are to be taken.
- Principals at state and state-integrated schools have authority to preclude a student from attending if they believe on reasonable grounds they may have a communicable disease under section 19 of the Education Act
- Contact the local medical officer of health if there are any concerns about someone believed on reasonable grounds to be ill, refusing to stay away.
- Wash and dry hands, cough into elbow, don't touch your face

[Schools connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19](#) must close on an individual or group basis for 72 hours to allow contact tracing and cleaning. They could be closed for a further 14 days (but open for distance learning) – you will work with public health units to manage this and the direction to close will come from the Medical Officer of Health. See *further below for more details*.

Stringent self-isolation of those who display relevant symptoms of COVID-19, test positive for COVID-19, have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, or have been overseas in the last 14 days – [Ministry of Health information for self-isolation](#).

PPE is not required or recommended as necessary in any educational facility by the Public Health Service. See *further below for more information on face coverings*.

Schools are **required** to display QR Code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App

Keep classroom temperatures to 18 degrees. 18 – 20 degrees is a comfortable temperature, below that there is increased risk – from a cold household, workplace or school.