



Wednesday 12 August

TERM 3 – UPDATE 1

Kia Ora Koutou

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister announced last night that Auckland would be moving to Alert Level 3 and the rest of the country to Alert Level 2 at midday today. This will go through until midnight on Friday. I anticipate there will be further update shared with us later in the week to guide what will happen after Friday.

From the Ministry of Education this morning, At Alert Level 2:

- It is safe for all students and staff to attend school and early learning
- Children and staff who are at higher risk of severe illness are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home.
- Students 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
- Anyone presenting as unwell will be asked to go home
- Masks are not required at school at this point
- Contact tracing registers need to be kept
- Physical distancing of 2 metres is recommended for parents and caregivers

For us at Merrilands School, moving to Alert Level 2 means going back to the protocols that we used when we were last at Level 2. There has been some minor adjustments but all protocols have been developed based on Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education guidelines, with the priority being, to ensure the health and safety of students and staff while at our school.

Key points:

- **All children need to be dropped off/collected from outside the school gates.** (*exception being new entrants where a parent is settling a new child to school - contact tracing processes will be shared directly with these families*) This will be implemented fully tomorrow, to avoid panic at the end of the day
- **Children not to arrive on site before 8.20am. Classrooms will be following sanitising processes on entry from 8.30am.**
- **Any adults** waiting to collect children or who are catching up with each other at drop off or pick up time need to **maintain 2 metre physical distancing** - talk with your child again about where you will expect to be to meet them that is away from the school gates
- **We strongly encourage walking, biking, scootering** to school to minimise congestion
- **Drinking fountains will be turned off** - please **send along a named drink bottle** for your child each day or leave at school for refill in the classroom
- **Hand sanitizer will be used on entry to every classroom after break times**
- **Children will also be washing hands frequently throughout the day**
- **Cough, sneeze and staying home if unwell** messages will be promoted through the day. Please keep your child home if they are unwell.
- **Not touching each other** and **staying out of the moist breath zone** are important expectations for children to be reminded about

- **School office will be operating 1 in 1 out.** Please be patient or alternatively email the school office if you have a query that doesn't need an immediate response.

Contract tracing is required for any person coming into the office or on site in any capacity.

We therefore ask that phone and email again become the preferred communication tool at this time. Should you need to come into the office there will be hand sanitiser to use as you come in, then a contact tracing register to fill in. Crosses will mark safe physical distancing that we respectfully ask you to use.

The MOE Contact Tracing QR code is on display and we encourage you also to use that for your own tracing records.

These updates have been shared with children today and we are aware of the need to remain calm and not create unnecessary panic at this time. We understand that for some children, and for some parents, this may be an anxious time. Promoting and supporting the well-being of your child, and our staff, is our priority and we will be taking extra care to ensure those needing a little extra look out, will be cared for.

Thank you in advance for your support as we continue to manage the best we can for everyone, within this changing pandemic situation.

If you'd like to check out our full 'Alert Level 2 Revised Principles and Protocols' see the attached doc or link in the notices section of the app.

Ngā manaakitanga

Michelle Cronin
Principal