



COVID-19 Update #3 – 28 February 2021

Alert Level 2

Kia ora Whānau

As I'm sure you will already have heard, here in Taranaki and across the country (with the exception of Auckland), we are officially back in Alert Level 2. This came into effect at 6.00am this morning, following the Prime Minister's announcement last night.

We are already well familiar with requirements at this level as we were at Level 2 so recently. A friendly reminder of what's required is below for anyone unsure, or new to our school.

We will continue to promote safe cleaning and hygiene practices as we have done so in the past. Can I ask you please to keep children home if they are feeling unwell and to support us as we do everything we can to remain safe during these heightened times.

What does this mean for us at Merrilands School?

- *Level 2 protocols will again be used to guide how we operate*
- *Any children feeling unwell MUST stay home. Children who are unwell at school will be asked to go home*
- *Any visitors to school must go to the office, scan the tracing register, sign in and sanitise their hands before seeing Brenda*
- *The best form of communication with teachers during this alert level is via email*

Attendance

- *School is still open to all students and attendance is expected unless your child is unwell, is vulnerable or your family is self isolating*
- *If absent, please use the school app to record child's name, reason for absence etc, before 9am. This helps to save time making contact with each family should your child be marked absent*
- *If you are self-isolating, please confidentially advise Brenda or myself*

At Pick Up and Drop Off

- *Parents will need to drop off and collect children from outside the school gate. Parents of new entrant students in Room 10 may go with them to class if needed but must sign into the tracing register inside their classroom each day. No other adults are allowed on school site.*
- *Please talk with your child/ren about where your 'meeting place' will be at the end of the day. We highly recommend walking, biking, scootering or parking and walking from Miro Street or Mangorei Road if you do need to travel by car*
- *Parents are asked to maintain social distancing whilst waiting*
- *Unfortunately the school grounds will not be available for people to stay after school to play during this alert level*

Classrooms

- *Classrooms will all have hand sanitiser available and cleaning/sanitation processes to follow including washing hands frequently through the day*
- *Children need to sanitise on entry and will wash hands with soap and dry in classrooms prior to going out to play times*
- *Children need to bring their own named water bottle as water fountains will be turned off*

Ngā mihi

Michelle Cronin
Principal