



## COVID-19 Update #5 – 7 September 2021

### **Alert Level 2**

Kia ora whānau

My apologies for this update coming to you so late but there has been lots to work through at a national level as those in high places have reviewed and again developed guidelines for how we need to be operating when we move to Alert Level 2. These have only 'landed' with us in the last couple of hours so there has been lots going on in the background to update our school plans and share these with our staff.

You'll be aware that all of New Zealand (with the exception of Auckland) is moving to Alert Level 2 from midnight tonight. Our thoughts and positive wishes are with everyone in Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland.

Extensive wastewater testing and the numbers of people getting tested across the country has given the Government confidence that it is safe to allow a shift down to Alert Level 2 across most of New Zealand.

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back onsite on Thursday morning. Tomorrow (Wednesday) we will be continuing to support the learners who have been onsite at Alert Level 3 while we prepare for re-opening to all on Thursday.

At Alert Level 2 there is low risk of community transmission and it provides us with a lot more opportunities to engage and connect with others. However, there are still a number of public health requirements we all need to follow. Please do continue to monitor your health and do not send your children to school if they are not well (and please seek advice about getting a COVID test).

For us, all the required safety precautions for Alert Level 2 will be in place which include following all the recommendations from the public health experts. This means we will regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, encourage everyone to frequently wash their hands and cough and sneeze into their elbow.

While physical distancing is not a requirement in schools, we will be doing our best to encourage students to respect each other's personal space, reduce the numbers of people in the corridors and keep spaces well-ventilated.

Face coverings are not required to be worn in school. The Director General of Health has recommended that children 12 years+ wear a face covering at school – just as older children are required to wear face coverings in some other places. The decision to wear a face covering is up to you and your whānau, whatever your decision it will be respected.

There are a number of things that will be slightly different while we are operating in Alert Level 2. Our operating protocols have been developed based on Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education guidelines, with our priority being to ensure the health and safety of students and staff while at our school.

Please talk through the changes with your child before coming to school on Thursday to help them to understand expectations and feel as comfortable as possible about their return to school.

- **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*)

- **Any adults** waiting to collect children at drop off or pick up time need to **maintain 2 metre physical distancing** - talk with your child about where you will expect to be to meet them that is away from the school gates
- **To reduce congestion at the end of the day**, Middle school students will come out via the driveway into the courts, Juniors will come out with their classroom teacher and might be slightly before 3 to enable congestion to be minimised if parents are waiting to collect children and they can be connected together before older students finish for the day.
- **We strongly encourage walking, biking, scootering** to school to minimise congestion
- **Drinking fountains remain 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**
- **Children will also be washing hands frequently throughout the day**
- **Cough into elbow and other good hygiene** messages will be promoted through the day
- **Respecting personal space and staying out of the moist breath zone** are important expectations for children to know about before coming to school.
- **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.
- **Anyone coming into the office needs to scan the QR code or sign into the tracing register in the office foyer**. Crosses mark waiting places to ensure social distancing.
- **Please avoid the need to collect your child early or throughout the day, unless for a doctor or dental appointment**. We do not have extra people to be runners to go and get children from classes unless for specific medical reasons.

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.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday with a friendly smile or wave as you drop your child to school and thank you in advance for supporting our school to stay safe. If you are not sure what all the rules are for alert level 2 when you are out and about, then the following information may be useful to you:

- [COVID-19 Alert Levels summary table](#)
- [COVID-19 Alert Levels detailed table](#)

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's kaiako or me if there is something you need assistance with. See you Thursday!

Ngā mihi

Michelle Cronin  
Principal