

12 August, 2020

Back to Covid-19 Stage 2 Alert level

Dear parents, Whānau and friends of the school,
Kia ora koutou

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister.

Today, the Prime Minister advised that from mid-day today we will be moving back to COVID-19 Alert Level 2.

What you need to know

Alert Level 2 is not life as normal. Your child can still come to school, but they should:

- keep their distance from other people in public
- wash their hands. We encourage them to bring their own hand sanitiser and we will reinforce hygiene at school. Each class has a sanitiser pump and the toilet washing facilities are well equipped.
- sneeze and cough into their elbow.
- keep a track of where they've been and who they've seen. At school we maintain a register of all students, staff and visitors for contact tracing purposes.
- wear a mask if they can. Although not compulsory, we will try to normalise the wearing of masks and encourage physical distancing on school site.

What is still possible

- gatherings of students up to 100 people. This means sports practices and games will continue.
- Regular classes and class trips.
- Wearable Arts Competition tomorrow

What is not possible

- Our open night for 2021 year 7 students and their families. This has been postponed to 9 September, 2020.
- Showcase. We are going to make a call about this on Friday or Monday at the latest. Our Plan B is to film all the acts and create a video for distribution.
- Large sports events such as the inter-school cross country planned for Friday. This has been cancelled.

Summary

The key Public Health approach is to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected.

You can be assured that in Alert Level 2 we will know who is at school, who our staff and students have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. We do however know it is challenging in schools, so good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here. This includes staff and students coughing into their elbows, handwashing and drying and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Under Alert Level 2, we advise any students and staff to stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms.

Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site.

It's important however that not just at school but at home, safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone, as this is essential to minimise the risk that someone gets infected with Covid-19.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

We will keep in touch.

Ngā mihi
Henk Popping
Principal