



17/02/2021

Kia ora koutou

By now I am sure that you have heard the good news that the Prime Minister has announced we are moving down to Alert Level 2 from 11.59pm tonight. The huge volume of tests completed in the last few days has given confidence that if any further cases arise, they will likely be closely linked to these existing cases.

It's been a great effort from our school and wider community, health workers, scientists, and technicians and the thousands of people who have been tested across New Zealand.

We therefore look forward to welcoming all of you back onsite tomorrow, Thursday 18th February.

Alert Level 2 summary

The overriding principles for alert level 2 are:

- to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place
- to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school or early learning centre is infected
- understand that Level 2 is not business as usual

Under Alert Level 2, there will need to be some different systems and processes that we use to keep our students, staff and parents safe. A full copy of the safety plan is attached to this newsletter.

In summary a reminder that while everyone is onsite at Alert Level 2, we must adhere to key health measures including:

- Good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette
- Staying away if sick (students and staff)
- Keeping the appropriate physical distance from others (in class this means no touching each other and keeping out of breathing distance)
- Cleaning and disinfecting our high touch surfaces daily

Please note: At Alert Level 2 any adult that is not a staff member **MUST** do some form of contact tracing sign in and we strongly suggest you use the Covid-19 tracer app. This is to keep ALL our staff and students safe. All visitors **MUST** report to the office.

We know all these things will help to keep our community as safe as possible.

Masks

Because of the measures above, the MoH and MoE have advised that your child does not need to wear a face covering while at school. We will of course support them should they choose to do so.

One of the biggest risks to our community is unwell people attending school. Students and staff are to stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms. Anyone with flu like symptoms is to consult a GP or call Healthline. This will likely prompt a test for the virus. It is very important that we follow this advice to ensure the virus is not spread within the school community.

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

As usual please contact the school office if you have any queries.

Thank you for your support.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Whitford', written in a cursive style.

Mark Whitford
Principal

GIS COVID-19 Alert Level 2 Safety Plan for students

As we transition into alert level 2 there will be tight restrictions and once we have confidence that everything is operating effectively, we will open more opportunities. Our initial focus is to reinforce the key Public Health guidelines. I ask that all families discuss these before the students return on Thursday 18th February.

<p>In classrooms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand Sanitiser will be available at the entrance to the classroom. • 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. Where practicable 1 metre should be used as a guide, particularly between adults. • Workspaces will be organised in an attempt to allow for some physical distancing • Children will need to have their own stationery, supplies and devices/headphones and a DRINK BOTTLE • Doors will be left open - temperature permitting
<p>Contact Tracing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please inform the school if your household has been directed to self isolate. • At alert level 2 any adult that is not a staff member must do some form of contact tracing sign in. • If you wish to enter the school grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Download the Covid-19 tracer app and scan the QR code as you enter the school office or ◦ Sign the contact tracing register held by the staff outside the school office. • If your child has an appointment and you need to pick them up during the school day, please phone ahead to let us know. We will then have your child ready with their school bag at the front of the office ready for you to collect. • At 3pm we expect all children to go home and stay out of the school grounds. • Children will not be able to wait in the school office for parents to pick them up. They will need to wait on the seats outside the office.
<p>Hygiene and cleaning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand Sanitiser, Surface Sanitiser, tissues, and paper towels will be available in every classroom. • Hand Sanitiser will be at the entrance to all classrooms including Learning Hub and Hall. • Soap and hot water is available in all bathrooms. • The toilet blocks will be sanitised during the day. • Cleaners will complete daily cleans in line with MoH guidelines. • Toilets - each classroom will have designated bathroom space clearly labelled. <p><u>Personal Hygiene includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues • Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately • Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds) • Use hand sanitiser whenever you enter or exit a room • Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean
<p>Break and lunch times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bike track will be closed initially (at breaks and for class use) • Physical education classes and break time activities will include access to sports equipment. There will be regular cleaning of shared equipment. • Children are encouraged to stay 1m apart in the playground - no more than 10 students in a group unless it is an organised event by a teacher. • Water fountains will be turned off - children MUST bring water bottles.
<p>Physical</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No handshakes, hongis, hugging, and other physical contact

distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Avoid getting into other peoples 'moist breath zone'. ● No groups bigger than 10 in the playground unless for an organised event. ● No full school assemblies or interschool sports at this time.
Pick up and Drop Off:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Usual start and finish times ● No students will be permitted on the grounds before 8.00am or after 3.15pm (unless on the school bus). ● Under alert level 2 parents and caregivers will not be allowed on site unless they have an appointment with the teacher or are visiting the office. If parents do wish or need to come on site, please email the classroom teacher. If this can not be done due to unforeseen circumstances please come to the school office to register and register as a visitor. ● We wish to encourage a drop off and pick up only approach to restrict the number of 'adults on-site'. Please do not use the staff car park to drop off or pick up. ● BUSES. Usual bus services will operate. Mask faces are optional but encouraged.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● While not mandated by the government for schools, students and staff may wear face masks if they wish to. ● Students will stay within their own classroom and not visit other rooms or staff shared spaces (ie photocopier or staffroom) unless absolutely necessary. ● Bathroom doors (not cubicles), gates etc will be wedged open to minimise contact with handles.