

***Ka Manaaki, Ka Rapu, Ka Whakamanawa tahi ai tātou
Caring, Exploring and Inspiring Together***



8th May 2020

Kia ora te whanau

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

It is reassuring to hear how well our country has done at minimising the impacts of COVID-19. Alert Levels 4 and 3 have not been easy and I thank you for your ongoing support for the work we are doing.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister advised that in Alert Level 2 schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff and that additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.

The good news is that we will be able to welcome all students and staff back to our school site when we are at level 2. The Prime Minister will announce whether we are ready to move to level 2 on Monday 11th May. However, all schools and staff will need some time to prepare to reopen. ***Therefore, the earliest we will be able to open under Level 2 is the Monday 18th May. We will make further announcements on this early next week, when we know for sure whether we are returning to level 2.***

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.

As we have done in Alert Level 3, 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. As described by Dr Payinda in his [NZ Herald article](#), "Covid's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone". We all just need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2!

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/>

For some of our tamariki they will be feeling anxious and it is important that they know school is a safe place for them. The [Ministry of Education have some great tips](#) and ways to support your child. Preparing your child to transition to school will be important and something we are planning for at school too. Our programmes will look a little different as we all settle back into school.

We will be expecting all students back unless they have health issues.

If you have any questions about our health and safety plan, or have a child who might be vulnerable to serious illness and would like to discuss a plan for them, please contact me.

We will be in touch again soon to update you on our plans.

Ngā mihi nui

Luana Carroll and Leadership Team