

1st March 2021

Alert Level 2 - All of New Zealand excluding Auckland region

Alert Level 2 applies from 6am 28/02/2021 for 7 days.

Kia Ora,

The fluidity of the COVID-19 situation will no doubt be creating some concerns for our community. Last night when I watched the Prime Minister deliver her update on the change in COVID-19 alert levels, I felt a bit worried about the change and the impact the change has on our young people. However, I am confident that we know what to expect and how to best manage. The most important thing from my perspective is that our students feel safe and connected to their learning.

The school will keep you updated with any changes to events and reminders re level 2 guidelines. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

We have decided to cancel Team Up conferences for Thursday and will have a plan in place for those families who had made bookings this week. Please feel free to get in touch with your child's subject teacher or Dean if you have any questions or queries.

There will be no Assemblies this week, and instead, we will prepare an online message for students, parents and teachers. This means that on Wednesday and Friday there will be a late start. Period 1 will start at 8:55am.

The Canteen is operational - remember that you can order online.

Teachers have set up online learning for their classes and whanau groups. This is important in case there is another change to alert levels, then we are prepared. For those students who are away due to illness they can keep up with their class work.

The Ministry of Health helpline (0800 611 116) is available for people seeking advice about COVID tests and health information. Please also remember to keep scanning the QR codes displayed at local businesses. If you need to come into school for a pre-arranged meeting, please ensure that you sign in at the main office and scan the COVID-19 QR code.

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Below are the guidelines and information from the Ministry of Education:

1. Schools are open to everyone, and all children must attend.

At Alert Level 2 the disease is contained but there is still risk of community transmission. It is safe for children and staff to attend school and for school hostels to be operating as there will be appropriate measures in place, including for children and staff vulnerable to severe illness.

2. Learning will be onsite with distance learning offered in some circumstances.

Distance learning should be provided for those required to self-isolate, those individuals who health authorities have asked to stay away while waiting for a test result, or those choosing to remain at home because they are vulnerable to illness.

3. Schools are not classified as gatherings and a range of events and activities can go ahead.

For most day to day activities at schools, the rules for gatherings do not apply. Under the COVID-19 Public Health Response Order, schools are exempted from physical distancing requirements when people are there to receive, provide, or support education services.

However as soon as your event or activity brings people onsite who are not there for education purposes, including students, parents and caregivers, then the rules for gatherings do apply. This would include performances such as school plays, cultural events, camps and sporting activities.

4. Face coverings are not required at school or on any school transport.

This includes charter buses hired by the school to transport students and staff. Anyone who chooses to wear a face covering in any setting should be supported to do so.

5. Sick people must stay at home.

They should seek medical advice if they have COVID-like symptoms and get tested if advised to do so. If that person displays relevant symptoms of COVID-19, tests positive for COVID-19, or has been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate.

6. You must have a contact tracing system in place.

Anyone coming onto the school site needs to sign in at reception and scan the QR code.

7. Fundamental public health measures continue to apply at every alert level:

Physical distancing (not touching and not breathing on each other at Alert Level 2)

Hand hygiene

Cough and sneeze etiquette

Regularly cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces.

The most important thing is to look after yourself and your whanau. We will all have different responses, thoughts and feelings about being in Level 2, which is perfectly normal. Remember that there is lots of support at school (classroom teachers, Deans and the guidance counselling team), the community and through national helplines (<https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/in-crisis/helplines/>) if needed.

Ngā mihi,



Nicola Jacobsen

MAC Principal