
Update 13 may

1 message

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To: All Personnel <allpersonnel@waimairi.school.nz>, allwhanau@waimairi.school.nz

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Kia ora Waimairi whānau,

We look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Monday.

From the Director of Public Health:

We have carefully looked at the evidence around COVID-19 and educational settings, and at the experience of other countries in responding to COVID-19 in these settings to inform the public health advice to the education sector in planning for a move to Level 2.

Our experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 over the last four months shows that it does not infect or affect children and teens in the same way it does adults.

So children and teens have low infection rates, they don't become that unwell if they do get infected, and they don't tend to pass the virus on to adults.

Quality education is a public health intervention in itself, so I am very aware of the benefits of children and young people attending school and early learning, and the need to support children and young people to do this as quickly as we can.

The two key public health principles that support our approach at Alert Level 2 are first 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 or early learning centre is infected.

Any children, young people and staff should stay at home if they are sick, or should be sent home immediately if they show any symptoms.

*Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. **In an Alert level 2 school environment, this means children, young people, and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, coupled***

with good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

There are situations where physical distancing is not possible, such as some sporting activities. In these situations extra emphasis on handwashing and drying (or cleansing with hand sanitiser) before and after activities and regular cleaning of equipment is recommended.

Schools and early learning services will also maintain registers so that children, young people and staff can immediately be contacted by public health services if there is a probable or confirmed case.

And it is important that parents fully support this approach by doing their bit - keeping children home if they are unwell and seeking medical advice about whether a child may need to be tested; and ensuring great hygiene practices at all times.

Dr Caroline McElnay

Director, Public Health, Ministry of Health

Below is an outline of how our school will work at Level 2.

Classrooms	<p>From the start of next week distance learning will be provided by Education TV, which has had its broadcast period extended.</p> <p>Waimairi loaned iPad returns must be returned to the designated station on Monday morning. Not to the office or to class teachers.</p> <p>Year 5 and 6 pupils need to bring their iPads back to school as usual.</p> <p>Hand sanitiser will be provided in every classroom. Hand sanitiser stations will be set up at the designated entry and exit points of each classroom and Students and Staff will use this hand sanitiser as they enter the buildings each time. Students will clean their hands before leaving the classroom, supervised by staff.</p> <p>Additional posters for handwashing will be in</p>
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	<p>place.</p> <p>If your child has close contact with a special needs learning assistant a special risk assessment and PPE plan will be put in place. We will consult with you about this.</p> <p>Additional cleaning supplies will be available in classrooms for teachers to sanitise spaces throughout the school day as required.</p> <p>The Moist Breath Zone song offers us the common language about our Level 2 rules. Make sure you have shared it with your kids before Monday.</p> <p>Virtual hugs are about to become a feature of the Waimairi landscape.</p>
<p>Pickup & Drop Off</p>	<p>Under Alert Level 2 parents and caregivers are asked not to come on site unless absolutely necessary. Children are to use these allocated gates: Kereru and Inaka - Rail gate Kotare and Ti Kouka - Kotare gate Patiki, Ngā Puna and Kanuka - Tillman Ave gate</p> <p>Teachers will be available to touch base with you in the vicinity of gates at the start and end of the day.</p> <p>Where possible there should be one caregiver designated for pick up and drop off.</p> <p>Students will not be allowed to enter school before 8:30am. They need to leave the site straight after school.</p> <p>Y6 Gate ambassadors will be on duty to help out in the morning and afternoon.</p> <p>If you do need to come on site please sign in for contact tracing purposes. You can do this by using your phone to scan the QR code at each gate and following the on-screen instructions. You can also sign in manually at the school office or the in the hall foyer.</p> <p>Office hours for community access are 9am - 2:45pm. One person only inside at a time. please maintain 2 metres distance while queuing outside.</p>
<p>Movement Across the School</p>	<p>There is no bubble concept at Level 2, so there are no restrictions on groups of students mixing with others on site.</p>

	<p>Children 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. There does not need to be a specific measurement but where practicable 1 metre should be used as a guide, particularly between staff.</p>
<p>Staff room Bubbles</p>	<p>Staff are expected to maintain a minimum of 1m physical distance at all times including in the two staff rooms.</p> <p>Sanitiser will be provided in the staff rooms. Disinfectant/wipes are available to be used on shared keypads (e.g. photocopier and alarm pads). Give them a wipe before you walk away.</p>
<p>Playgrounds</p>	<p>Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment including playgrounds but hygiene practice will be observed before and after playing with equipment.</p> <p>Drinking fountains will be turned off. Students will need a named drink bottle at school.</p> <p>Students can bring their own scooters and bikes.</p>
<p>Attendance</p>	<p>Any children and staff will stay home if they are sick, or will be sent home immediately if they show any symptoms.</p> <p>In schools our contact tracing is a combination of timetable, attendance register and visitor registers. These provide good information to health authorities if they need to contact people that might be considered a close contact of a confirmed case, and determine whether they will need to self-isolate.</p> <p>This includes recording who the adults on-site are as well as recording any visitors to the site, including parents and caregivers.</p>
<p>Cleaning & Hygiene</p>	<p>The toilet blocks will be sanitised during the day.</p> <p>Staff will be doing supplementary cleaning (using PPE) as needed.</p> <p>Cleaners will complete daily cleans in line with the Ministry of Health guidelines.</p>

	In an Alert Level 2 we will continue to model good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.
Movement In and Out of School	We have chosen to continue to limit all non-essential curriculum activity both in and outside of school. Kapa haka -yes Music lessons -yes French lessons - yes Road patrol - yes Coffee shop -no Hot dogs - no Meet up - no
Not Quite Business as Usual	School reports for those due in Terms 1 and 2 will be sent home. We will not catch these parent interviews up. MASH before and after school care will be operating from Monday onwards.

You can watch a video summary of the above information (and my ironic coughing fit) on our school Facebook page.

Really looking forward to seeing the kids on Monday.

Nāhaku noa, nā

Mike Anderson

Principal

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