

Moving to Alert Level 2

Tuesday 7th September 2021



Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whanau,

You'll be aware that all of New Zealand (with the exception of Auckland) is moving to Alert Level 2 from midnight tonight. Our thoughts and positive wishes are with everyone in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Extensive wastewater testing and the numbers of people getting tested across the country has given the Government confidence that it is safe to allow a shift down to Alert Level 2 across most of New Zealand.

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back onsite on Thursday morning. Tomorrow (Wednesday) we will be continuing to support the ākongā who have been onsite at Alert Level 3 while we prepare for re-opening to all on Thursday.

At Alert Level 2 there is low risk of community transmission and it provides us with a lot more opportunities to engage and connect with others. However, there are still a number of public health requirements we all need to follow. Please do continue to monitor your health and do not send your children to school if they are not well (and please seek advice about getting a COVID test).

For us, all the required safety precautions for Alert Level 2 will be in place which include following all the recommendations from the public health experts. This means we will regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, encourage everyone to frequently wash their hands and cough and sneeze into their elbow.

While physical distancing is not a requirement in schools, we will be doing our best to keep students from congregating in very large numbers and keeping spaces well-ventilated.

Face coverings are not required to be worn in school. The Director General of Health has recommended that children 12 years+ wear a face covering at school – just as older children are required to wear face coverings in some other places. The decision to wear a face covering is up to you and your whānau, whatever your decision it will be respected.

The following are reminders about what is expected at Alert Level 2 (for us at school):

Daily drop-off and pick-up

- We urge you to drop off/pick up your child at either of the school gates, but understand that for some children, this is not possible. If you need to come on site, please adhere to the instructions in the next bullet point.
- Schools must keep track of everyone entering our school, even parents, via a Contact Tracing Register. This means that we are asking every parent/caregiver who comes onto site to sign in or scan the Covid Tracer App. Each classroom has one of the posters displayed, and we have a paper copy of the register at the Office. Please scan into your child's class and do not enter any other parts of the school (unless you need to visit the office). When we were last at Level 2 you all did a great job of minimising the need to be onsite. Ka pai!
- If you need to speak to myself, your child's teacher or the office, please email or call first to make an appointment. This way we can manage the numbers of additional visitors safely.

Lunches

- Fish & Chip lunches will still operate fortnightly via the Tokomaru Store (the next F & C day is this Friday)
- Variety Lunches will operate during Alert Level 2 (but will be pre-prepared items)
- Children **MUST** bring a named water bottle each day (all drinking fountains will be closed until further notice)

Break Times

- Children will be supervised in their classrooms for eating (morning tea and lunch) to ensure appropriate distancing can be adhered to.
- The playgrounds will be open but children will be required to wash/sanitise their hands prior to returning to class.
- PE gear will be available to children at break times (for them to issue), but will be sanitised prior to next use.
- Bikes and scooters are welcome as usual (helmets must be worn); usual 'wheels' rules will apply.

Bus - this applies to bus students

- There are no changes to our bus route or service.
- School buses are a controlled environment where immediate contact tracing can take place if required. Seats in close proximity to the driver will be left empty.
- We must ensure Uzabus have reliable, up-to-date bus lists at all times to ensure everyone knows who is being transported each day, to enable contact tracing, therefore it is VITAL that you let the office know if there are any changes to your transport arrangements.

If you are not sure what all the rules are for alert level 2 when you are out and about, then the following information may be useful to you:

- [COVID-19 Alert Levels summary table](#)
- [COVID-19 Alert Levels detailed table](#)

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's kaiako or me if there is something you need assistance with. See you Thursday!

Smiles,

Sonia Mudgway
Principal