



School Frequently Asked Questions

COVID-19 Alert Level 2.

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

At Alert Level 2 Covid-19 is contained but there is still a risk of community transmission. It is safe for children and staff to attend school and for school hostels to be operating.

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

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

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 as school are exempted from physical distancing requirements.

However if an event or activity brings people onsite then the rules for gatherings do apply. Examples include school productions, cultural events and sporting activities. Physical distancing, does also apply for inter-school activities such as technology where more than one school is sharing the same space.

When large numbers of students congregate, such as at assemblies they should take place in well-ventilated areas or outdoors and spectators/attendees should be physically distanced.

It may be necessary to cancel or postpone Inter-regional travel or gatherings where you are not confident the appropriate measures will be in place at the host venue.

Face coverings at school or on any school transport.

Due to the increased risk of the Delta variant, it is strongly encouraged that face coverings for students aged 12 and over are to be worn. Individuals are encouraged to provide and wear their own face covering.

Sick people must stay at home.

Anyone with COVID-like symptoms should seek advice from their family doctor or call Healthline and get tested if advised to do so.

Symptoms of COVID-19 can include new-onset or worsening of one or more of the following:



- Cough
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste

Less common symptoms may include diarrhoea, headache, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, or confusion/irritability.

Anyone who have been at a location of interest at the relevant time, or is connected with a confirmed case in some way, must follow the advice of the health authorities.

All schools must have a contact tracing system in place.

Contact tracing systems remain a priority these can include timetables, attendance and visitor registers. QR code posters at entrances to the school grounds provides an additional measure to enable contact tracing.

Public health measures 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.

If a child or staff member is sick, they should stay home (phone Healthline or their GP and get tested if a doctor or health professional recommends them to do so):

Staff will observe students on arrival to school checking for symptoms and anyone presenting as unwell will be asked to go home or arrangements will be made for a parent or caregiver to come and pick them up.

For further information please contact:



MidCentral Public Health Service Palmerston North: (06) 350 9110