

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa
Monday 11th May 2020



Kia Ora Koutou

I do hope all the mother's in the community had an enjoyable Mother's Day on Sunday. We continue to enjoy amazing weather which enables us to get out into our local environment.

This afternoon the Prime Minister announced that the country will be moving to Alert Level 2.

The overriding principles for Alert Level 2 are:

- To minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place
- To ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected
- Understand that Level 2 is not business as usual

We have been advised that schools are open for all children and students to attend and it is safe to do so. The most important things you can do are keep washing your hands, cough safely, and keep surfaces clean, just as you have been at Levels 3 and 4.

Physical Distancing – 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 very important.

Mass gatherings – Educational facilities, and school transport are not considered mass gatherings because they are managed environments. This means there are no restrictions on numbers of people indoors or outside at schools other than what other public health or health and safety measures require.

Sports and playgrounds – school playgrounds, sports equipment use, and activities can resume. Any inter school events that recommence will need to have a contact tracing register in place to record those playing for and against teams.

Specific public health measures to be taken in schools:

- Parents are asked to keep any sick children at home. If a sick child comes to school, we are required to send them home.
- Children, young people 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 1m should be used as a guide, particularly between adults.
- Hand sanitiser at entry to classrooms and in shared spaces will be available. Soap, water and the ability to dry hands will be provided in bathrooms.

- Where practicable ensure that children and young people regularly wash and dry hands, cough and sneeze into their elbow, and try to avoid touching their face.
- Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment including playgrounds, but hygiene practice should be observed after playing with equipment.
- Disinfect and clean all surfaces daily.
- Contact tracing registers will be set up and identify which children and adults are on site, in each teaching space, including recording if there is a different composition of children and adults during the day. This includes recording visitors to the site, including parents.

What this means for us at Ōhope Beach School:

- You will be able to send your children back to school from **Monday 18th May**.
- Parents are asked not to enter the school grounds. Please drop off and pick up your children. You will be able to gather outside the school while waiting for your children, but the usual physical distancing needs to be observed.
- If you do need to come into school this must be through the office where you will be asked to complete our contact tracing register.
- School bus transport will be running, if they have enough drivers. Some of the drivers fall into the at-risk group. We will have further information about school bus transport later in the week.
- Children are to bring back any school readers, library books or resources they will need now they are back at school.
- Sick children are to stay at home.
- We will not be holding whole school assemblies until further notice.
- If you are planning to keep your child/children at home during Alert Level 2 we need you to **email us by 3.00pm Wednesday 13th May**.
- Email: julie@ohopebeach.school.nz **if your child will not be attending school or phone the office on 07 3124617**

Thank you for your continued patience as we work through this unique situation. The staff and I have appreciated your support throughout the isolation period and look forward to your continued support as we transition back to school next week. Further information about the transition will be sent out tomorrow.

Ngā mihi
Cathryn Naera
Principal