

11 May 2020

## COVID 19 Alert Level 2 Update for Families

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau,

As you are all aware the Prime Minister has announced today that New Zealand will be making the transition to Alert Level 2 on Thursday 14 May. As you can imagine this raises many challenges and organisational implications for us here at Hukanui School. The Ministry has also agreed that schools will continue at Alert Level 3 until Monday 18 May.

**This means that Hukanui school will only be open this week to children who were pre-registered for onsite learning at Alert Level 3.** This is very important as we will be asking all staff to return to school on Thursday and Friday, to support class and programme organisation under the Alert Level 2 guidelines. This means we cannot compromise existing bubbles and cannot support any new families at this time. We would also appreciate if any Level 3 bubble children could be kept home on these two days to support our preparation. We do understand if this is not possible.

**Please do be aware that school under Level 2 conditions will be very different to school life prior to the COVID pandemic.**

We hope that through our communication with you today, you get some initial insight into what life might look like next week. We will endeavour to write to you again later this week with a further update around Level 2 information, particularly systems at drop off and pick up times. All of us here on the Hukanui School staff are truly looking forward to seeing your children back at school under Level 2.

Yes, it will be a bit different, but it will be a familiar, fun and safe place of learning surrounded by teachers and friends who care.

### **Level 2 Hukanui Preparations for Monday 18 May start routines and safety aligned with MOE Level 2 guidelines - [Click here for Ministry of Education information](#)**

- Children and staff maintain 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.
- Any children, young people and staff should stay at home if they are sick, or will be sent home immediately if they show any cold/flu symptoms. Under Level 2 we ask that people see their family doctor that same day to mitigate risk of COVID 19.
- Hygiene practices will include the washing of hands as children arrive at school, before and after eating, toilet times, after any sneezing/coughing, and at the end of the day, etc.
- It is safe for children to share resources, books, sports gear etc when they are regularly washing their hands.
- Playgrounds are safe to open for children to play on and shared sports equipment is safe to play with – with conditions in place.
- Full school and team assemblies will be put on hold. Kapa haka and band will continue with spacing between children.
- Contact tracing is necessary at a class level and school level so that children, staff and visitors can immediately be contacted by public health services if there is a probable or confirmed case.
- PPE, e.g. mask, gloves, etc., is not required or recommended as necessary in any educational facility by the Public Health Service.
- Parents and caregivers will be asked to drop and collect children at designated gates to ease pressure, congestion, and ease contact tracking needs. As you can all appreciate, to ensure the

health and safety of your children, we cannot have parents wandering around, or congregating on site.

- Upon advice from the local medical officer of health, any educational facilities connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 must close on an individual or group basis for 72 hours to allow contact tracing, and then potentially for a further 14 days.

### Our first week back together:

We are very mindful that learners and staff will be returning having had significantly different experiences during the lockdown period and with a wide range of perceptions of the pandemic. The effect on individuals will be diverse. For some, transition back to school will be easy, while some may find it a challenge initially for a variety of reasons and others may feel like they are starting school all over again. Our focus areas in the first weeks back are;

- That relationships are reformed and strengthened.
- New children and individuals with high level needs will be carefully transitioned back into school.
- Sharing what we are thankful for and have appreciated over the last few months.
- Being familiar with new daily and weekly routines.
- Reflecting on our distance learning and planning what learning will look like now we are back in school.
- Having fun and enjoying each other's company.

### Level 2 Self Isolating Registration:

At Alert Level 2, all children and young people can go to school and we look forward to seeing all children back. [The Ministry of Education has shared](#) that the only exceptions are children or young people who are sick or have any COVID-19 symptoms, are in isolation, or are waiting for the result of a test. Distance learning is available for those unable to attend school for those reasons. **Families are asked to contact [office@hukanui.school.nz](mailto:office@hukanui.school.nz) if their children will not be attending school. This will enable us to finalise our plans for distance learning.**

### Learning Next Week - Week 5 of Term 2:

As you are all aware now that the Level 2 announcement has been made, our wider staff will be required to return to site to prepare classrooms and learning for all returning students on Monday 18 May. Distance learning will continue for all learners for the remainder of this week. As stated earlier, teachers will not be responding to work on Thursday and Friday of this week. With this in mind parents, please only do the learning that works for you and your children.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the [covid19.govt.nz](https://covid19.govt.nz/) website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

We will be in touch again soon to update you on our plans.

Ngā mihi

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