



17 February 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

Auckland Moving to Alert Level 2

We are moving down to Alert Level 2 from 11.59pm tonight. The huge volume of tests completed in the last few days has given confidence that if any further cases arise, they will likely be closely linked to these existing cases.

We are all so looking forward to being fully open for all children **tomorrow**. The Team is excited about reconnecting with you all.

It is safe for all students and staff to return to school in Alert level 2. Schools are safe because hygiene habits will be strong and schools will put into place safe and sensible practice.

This is what we are doing:

As a school providing a safe and healthy environment is paramount to us. 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 or early learning centre is infected
- understand that Level 2 is not business as usual

In addition to the usual practices when managing health and safety, there are some specific [public health requirements](#) for Alert Level 2 that we **must** adhere to in school:

- Parents are asked to **keep any sick children at home**. If a sick child comes to school when unwell, we are expected to send them home, please make sure you are available to be contacted each day to assist us with this. If we do not have your up to date contact details, please update these by emailing Sera office@whenuapai.school.nz.
- It is recommended that 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 in school, but where practical 1 metre will be used as a guide, particularly between adults. All classrooms will be **separating their furniture** to help assist with these spaces, however, physical distance is not possible in some activities, (particular with our junior students). Because of this, all teachers will have **extra emphasis on handwashing and drying** (or cleansing with hand sanitiser) before and after ALL outdoor activities and there will be regular cleaning of shared equipment.

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- Hand sanitiser is at the entry to all classrooms and in shared spaces. Soap, water and the ability to dry hands is provided in bathrooms.
- All teachers will monitor students regularly washing and drying hands, coughing and sneezing into their elbow, and will encourage them to try to avoid touching their face.
- Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment including playgrounds but hygiene practice will be observed after playing with equipment.
- Disinfecting and cleaning of all surfaces will occur several times a day by the classroom teachers. After school each day the cleaners will be in to clean more thoroughly to be ready for the following day.
- There will be **no use of our drinking fountains**, please ensure your child comes with a named drink bottle.
- **Contact tracing registers** will be set up to identify which children and adults are on site, in each teaching space. This includes recording if there is a different composition of children and adults during the day. While we are in Level 2, all assemblies will be students and teachers only and at a team level rather than with the whole school.
- Please note: **PPE is not required** or recommended as necessary in any educational facility by the Public Health Service, however, a high level of protection will be worn when supporting students awaiting pick up if sickness does appear. Although Masks are not mandatory, students are welcome to wear them and we will support them should they choose to do so.
- Our **playgrounds will be used** at Alert Level 2 to align with reopening of public spaces – All students will be expected to wash hands before returning to classrooms.

Educational facilities are not considered mass gatherings. This means that there are no restrictions on numbers of people indoors or outside at school. I do ask however that if it is not essential for you to be on site then please don't be, this includes pick up and drop off. All assemblies and scheduled group events have been postponed until further notice.

Contact tracing continues to be an incredibly important part of New Zealand's response to COVID-19, therefore we will be implementing from Monday the following processes for drop off and pick up.

Pick up and Drop off - Please if your child or children can self manage please leave or meet them beyond the school gates. We do however understand that some children especially our younger people will need support to feel comfortable about returning to school and will need family support. We ask that you only have one adult per family on-site at anyone time.

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Please enter through the front entrance gate only. All other gates will be closed. There will be multiple copies of the Government QR code displayed across the front Office windows. Please scan prior to entering the school grounds. Please use the sanitiser prior to coming through the gate. If you do not use the app, please sign in using the Official Covid-19 sign in pad.

If you need to connect with your child or children during the day - please use the Government QR code or sign in prior to proceeding to the front desk. During the day we request you do not go beyond this area. We will deliver anything dropped off to your child. If you need to take your child out to an appointment we will organise for your child to be brought to reception.

Once again I ask that families please help us all stay well and only be onsite if you need to be and please only one adult per family. We also ask that you are onsite for as minimal time as possible and have conversations with other parent's and caregivers off site.

Our focus as always will be to support the learning, safety and wellbeing of our students and we continue to be here to support you as well.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself, if there is something you need assistance with.

Finally, if you or your child or children are unwell please stay home.

He iiti hau marangai

Etū to pāhokahoka

After the storm, the rainbow appears

Ngā mihi nui,

Raewyn Matthys-Morris
Principal