

## ALERT LEVEL 2 @ EKETAHUNA SCHOOL

Under Alert Level 2, it is safe for all schools to open. Safe and sensible practices for hygiene and contact tracing will be the norm, and all students will be able to return, so long as they remain well.

Under Alert Level 2, there are still likely to be new cases which may be the result of household transmission or associated with cluster outbreaks that are contained. The disease remains in New Zealand, so we need to remain vigilant and take appropriate steps to avoid transmission. People are able to leave home but are asked to do so in a safe and conscientious way.

The key principles for Alert Level 2 are to:

- reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place
- ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected
- understand that Level 2 is not business as usual.

Schools will be open to all students and year levels from Monday 18th of May, 2020 - **IF** a shift to Level 2 is announced next Monday 11th May.

Further information:

### Welcoming all staff and students back to school

When the decision to move to Alert Level 2 is made, we appreciate that welcoming staff and students back, assuring them they are safe and checking on their wellbeing is the first and most important job we'll do. Once this has happened, everyone will be ready to start focusing on learning. We fully appreciate the time it will take for children and some staff to reconnect and relax will be different for everyone. Wellbeing needs to be addressed before learning will happen.

### Supporting learning

We know that teachers, and parents, have done their very best to support learning over the time students have been learning at home. Some children will have maintained their learning, while others may need additional support in some areas of learning. As students return back into the learning environments we will be providing a range of learning activities that will help students connect with teachers and their peers in the first instance and provide an opportunity for teachers to observe individual readiness for learning and next learning steps.

### Hygiene Practises

- Hand sanitiser at entry to class rooms and in shared spaces.
- Soap, water and the ability to dry hands is provided in bathrooms.
- Where practicable ensure that children and young people cough and sneeze into their elbow, and try to avoid touching their face.
- All surfaces cleaned regularly each day

### Social Distancing & 'Bubbles'

- 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.
- There is no bubble concept at Level 2 so there are no restrictions on groups of children and students mixing with others on site. Where practicable where groups/classes do mix – attendance should be recorded as it should if the composition of groups and classes change during the day.
- Teachers/staff are not restricted to one group and can move freely between groups of students.

### Keeping Children Home When Unwell

- Parents are asked to keep any sick children at home. **DO NOT SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF UNWELL!**
- School staff are to observe students on arrival into the classroom checking for symptoms and ask those presenting as unwell to go home (or arrange for parents and caregivers to come and pick up). Please note, this does not mean that temperatures are to be taken.
- A reminder that Principals at state and state-integrated schools have authority to preclude a student from attending if they believe on reasonable grounds may have a communicable disease under section 19 of the Education Act

**Symptoms to monitor for are any respiratory symptoms such as a cold, a head cold, blocked ears, cough, sneezing, chills and a fever. Anyone with those symptoms should stay home and contact Healthline for advice, which may include getting tested for COVID-19 as a precaution. Anyone with these respiratory symptoms are not to enter the school.**

<b>Mass gatherings</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational facilities, and school transport are not considered mass gatherings. This means there are no restrictions on numbers of people indoors or outside at schools and early learning services other than what other public health or health and safety measures require.</li> <li>Health &amp; Safety requires no gatherings of more than 100 - therefore we will have not full school assemblies at Level 2</li> </ul>
<b>Contract Tracing &amp; NO Access to Parent for Parents</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact tracing registers will be in place and identify which children are in each teaching space, record when and who they have contact with during the day if that changes. This includes recording who the adults are in contact with them through the day.</li> <li>No parents are to enter the school site - please drop off and pick up your children at the school gates.</li> </ul>
<b>Buses</b>
<p>When schools resume under Alert Level 2, school transport services will also return to normal schedules. The ongoing safety of drivers and students and the ability to contact trace is a priority when we enter Alert Level 2, and will be managed in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand sanitisers will be available for each student to use as they board the vehicle.</li> <li>Vehicles and surfaces will be sanitised after each journey by the transport company.</li> <li>Seats in close proximity to the driver will be left empty.</li> </ul> <p><b>We will monitor Bus Behaviour rigorously and if any child's behaviour compromises the social distancing expectations they will no longer be able to use the school bus transport system - if this occurs it will be to caregivers to transport their children to school.</b></p>
<b>Supporting those Vulnerable to COVID-19, to Attend School</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By implementing the public health measures required in schools, it will minimise risk for someone who may be at-risk of serious illness from COVID.</li> <li>Children at higher-risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (e.g. those with underlying medical conditions, especially if not well-controlled) are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home. Parents, caregivers and students will need to work with the school to develop a plan to manage a safe return to school. Distance learning will continue to be available to those who choose to remain at home.</li> </ul>
<b>Playgrounds &amp; Sports</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School playgrounds will be open</li> <li>For the first 2 weeks of school there will be no contact sport. We will review this as the term goes forward.</li> </ul>
<b>Re-emergence of COVID-19</b>
<p>If a COVID-19 case is identified at a school or kura during Alert Level 2, affected sites will be closed for cleaning and close contact tracing. Instruction should revert back to the distance learning model until the school or kura is cleared to open.</p>