

# ALERT LEVEL 2 @ EKETAHUNA SCHOOL

Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th, and Friday 14th of August

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

**These guidelines are in place for the next two days. We will assess the situation as we receive new information. Let's hope we can return to Level 1 next week!!**

Under Alert Level 2, there will be new cases which may be the result of household transmission or associated with cluster outbreaks that are contained. To fight the disease in New Zealand 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:**

1. Reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place
2. Ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected
3. Understand that Level 2 is not business as usual.

## Hygiene Practises

- We will have 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 we need to ensure that children and young people cough and sneeze into their elbow, and try to avoid touching their face.
- All surfaces will be cleaned regularly each day

## Social Distancing & 'Bubbles'

- In an Alert Level 2 school environment, children, young people, and staff maintain a physical distance so that they are **not breathing on or touching each other**. This is 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. Some physical sporting activities will be stopped.
- 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 THEY'RE 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 . If we believe your child to be unwell you will be rung and asked to collect them immediately.**

**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.**

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## Mass gatherings

- 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.
- **Health & Safety requires no gatherings of more than 100 to occur - therefore school assembly on Friday 14th is postponed.**

## Contract Tracing & LIMITED Access for Parents

- **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. This will be in place for up to 2 months.**
- **We ask that parents refrain from entering the school grounds, as it is recommended that children are dropped at the school gates and enter by themselves. However, if your child needs reassurance as they return to school we ask that any parent that does enter the school site make their way to the office where clear instructions are displayed on how to complete the visitor registration on entry and exit.**
- **Hand sanitiser will be at the registration area and must be used before entering classroom areas.**

## Buses

The ongoing safety of drivers and students and the ability to contact trace is a priority under Alert Level 2, and will be managed in the following ways:

- Hand sanitisers will be available for each student to use as they board the vehicle.
- Vehicles and surfaces will be sanitised after each journey by the transport company.
- Seats in close proximity to the driver will be left empty.

**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 up to caregivers to transport their children to school.**

## Supporting those Vulnerable to COVID-19, to Attend School

- 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.
- 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, but with specific weekly tasks at individual learning level. Work sent home will be collected and marked each week. It is expected all tasks will be completed.

## Playgrounds & Sports

- School playgrounds will be open for our students to play on but remain closed to the public.

## Re-emergence of COVID-19

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.

**If any of your contact details have changed, for example; telephone, mobile phone or email please contact the school office immediately.**