



WAIWERA SOUTH SCHOOL

Toate
Nurture

Whakamanawa
Inspire

Whanake
Grow



Kia ora koutou

I am sorry - this is a long email with a lot of information! Please bear with me and read it as it has important Health and Safety information for moving into Level 2.

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister.

It is reassuring to hear how well our country has done at minimising the impacts of COVID-19. Alert Levels 4 and 3 have not been easy and I thank you for your ongoing support for the work we are doing.

Tomorrow we will be moving to Alert Level 2. The good news is that **on Monday May 18th, we will be open** and ready to welcome all students and staff back to our school site.

The key points from our planning doc are:

- School is open from May 18th for all children
- We will be proactive in encouraging physical distancing - but understand we are humans and working with children.
- We will continue to model/teach good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying) and have regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.
- Hand sanitiser will be provided in every classroom and the office. Students and staff will use this, after handwashing, as they enter or exit a room.
- Buses will be running on their normal route and timetable - new seating plans are in place and tracing information will be recorded so we know exactly who is on the bus each run - Hand sanitiser will be at the door - children will have to apply this as they enter.
- No children to be at school before 8.35am unless prior arrangements made with staff
- All adults who enter the site will need to sign in and out.
- When dropping off and picking up your children - we encourage you to remain in your car if possible. We understand depending on the day and children you may want/need to walk them into school - if you do, you will need to sign in and out.

The key Public Health approach is to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected.

We have been advised that schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff. Additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.

You can be assured that in Alert Level 2 we will know who is at school, who has visited school, who our staff and students have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. We do know this is challenging in schools, so good hygiene practices and regular cleaning will be even more important here. Good hygiene includes staff and students coughing into their elbows, handwashing and drying and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Under Alert Level 2, we advise any students and staff to stay at home if they are sick. Any students or staff who become unwell during the school day will be sent home.

Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site.

It's important however that not just at school but at home, safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone, as this is essential to minimise the risk that someone gets infected with Covid-19.

I have attached below links to some documents you might find interesting or helpful:

- [Waiwera South School's planning document](#) for moving into Level 2 so you can see what we have in place for our staff and students
- [A handout with some ideas for getting your children ready to return to school](#) written by Mike Parkes, a Clinical Psychologist from the Southern District Health Board. You might get one or two ideas to add to what you are already doing with regard to your children coming back to school.
- [The bus seating plan](#) - please talk to your children about this so they know where they are sitting before their first trip, this will make it easier for Taylor and James - our bus monitors
- The Covid-19.govt website - for up to date information on Level 2 public health measures website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>
- Dr Payinda in his [NZ Herald article](#), on 'moist breath zone.'

If you have any questions about our health and safety plan, or have a child or someone at home who might be vulnerable to serious illness and would like to discuss a plan for your family, please contact me.

We look forward to seeing the children back at school on Monday.

Ngā mihi nui

Kaz Bissett