

Subject: Update - COVID Alert Level 2

Kia ora whānau,

I am pleased to confirm that the [Government announced](#) New Zealand will move from Alert Level 3 to Alert Level 2 at midnight, Wednesday the 13th of May. We are delighted with this news and are very much looking forward to welcoming your children back to school on Monday the 18th of May.

This update contains important information to reassure you that we have the necessary health, safety and hygiene measures in place. We want to ensure that your child's return to school is a positive one for all. Please read this carefully as school will be a different experience from prior to lockdown.

## Getting Ready for Alert Level 2

Topic	Update
<b>Key MoH Alert Level 2 Messages 'Play it Safe'</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Illness</b> - Parents are asked to keep any sick children at home. If a sick child comes to school showing signs of unwellness, a parent/caregiver will be called to collect their child. If you or members of your family are displaying any signs of a cough or sore throat - you are encouraged to get tested for COVID-19. Call Healthline by ringing 0800 611 116 for information on where to get tested.</li><li>● <b>Enabling good hygiene practices</b> – regular washing and drying of hands and good cough and sneeze etiquette remain fundamental to preventing spread of illness such as colds, flu and COVID-19. We will be reinforcing these practices at school and we encourage you to do the same.</li><li>● <b>Cleaning</b> - Additional cleaning of table surfaces, high touch areas, handles and resources will be cleaned.</li><li>● <b>Hand Sanitising</b> - We have purchased a large stock of hand sanitiser. Learners will be asked to use it each time they enter the classes. Handwashing will be carried out throughout the day before food and after using the bathroom.</li><li>● <b>Physical Distancing</b> - Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Health ( MOH) have advised as much as practicable, physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. 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.</li><li>● <b>Playgrounds</b> – The use of school playgrounds can resume.</li><li>● <b>Break Times</b> - Morning tea and lunch times will resume as normal</li></ul>
<b>Attendance</b>	Along with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health, we encourage all learners to return to school at Alert Level 2.

- If your child is not going to be returning to school during Alert Level 2 due to being vulnerable to serious illness, please email us - [office@ponsprim.school.nz](mailto:office@ponsprim.school.nz)
- Please continue to use the school website or ring the office - if your child/ren will be absent from school due to illness etc.

### Drop Off and Pick Up

- We encourage your child to walk, ride or scooter to School.
- To minimise the number of people onsite, and maintain physical distancing, we encourage any parents dropping their child at School to say goodbye to your child at the gate - 'drop and go'.
- Should you need to accompany your child/ren to their class, please maintain the 2m physical distance and **remain outside of the class.**
- We encourage you to use the various entry and exit points around the school. For the first week, the Leadership Team will be supervising at the main gates to support learners on arrival.
- On Monday and for the first week, students will go straight to their classes on arrival, there will be no social gathering of children or before School play. There will be no playing on the playgrounds after school.
- Exit times for the classes at the end of the school day **will be staggered for our Kakariki children, we are advising parents in Yr 1 & 2 to pick their children (including older siblings) up between 2.30 - 2.50.** After school we will encourage the Year 4- 6 children to exit from the top gate and Yr 1-3 to exit from the bottom gate.

### School Office

- We will be limiting entry to the School office for the first two weeks at least. Think of the office like a pre-order and pick up service. E.g. your child needs a bookbag - please order via email and we will organise for the item to go home with your child. Preferred method of payment is EFTPOS, directly into the school bank account or via Kindo.

### Lateness

- Arriving at school on time is imperative during this time. Please let the office know if you will be running late by calling 09 376 3568 or emailing [office@ponsprim.school.nz](mailto:office@ponsprim.school.nz)
- In the event of a child being late, a late pass will be available for your child to collect from the office door entrance. They will need to show the late pass to their class teacher.

### Before and After School Activities

- For the first week of Alert Level 2, there will be no before school, lunchtime or after school activities e.g. No sports practices this includes netball, flippa ball and basketball. We will reassess this after week 1
- Please note that Youthtown will contact families who use after school care outlining their Health and Safety practices. Please contact Youthtown directly should you have any questions.

<b>What to bring to school</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Drink Bottle - water fountains will remain closed.</li> <li>● Packed morning tea and lunch - it is important there is no sharing of food, this will also be reinforced by teachers</li> <li>● There will be no bought lunch orders. Ezy Lunch, Subway, etc.</li> <li>● Headphones - Please ensure your child has their own set of headphones.</li> <li>● Device - Learners Chromebook or iPad are charged</li> </ul>
<b>Contact Tracing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Our contact tracing is a combination of timetable, attendance register and visitor register. These provide good information to health authorities if they need to contact people that might be considered a close contact of a confirmed case, and determine whether they will need to self-isolate.</li> <li>● Parents, please ensure your details at school are up to date for example addresses and phone numbers. If a nanny, grandparent or other family member is picking up your child, please contact the office as this information must be recorded as part of contact tracing. The more information we have, the safer it is going to be for all of us.</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lewis Eady music lessons for the first week will run virtually from School as they have while learners have been learning from home.</li> <li>● There will be no School Assemblies, we will run virtual assemblies for our children, and will acknowledge achievements through virtual assemblies.</li> </ul>

The information we have shared is the most up to date information we have. We receive regular communication from MOH and MOE, and will continue to keep you up to date with any new developments

As I mentioned last week, attached is a Wellbeing survey. If you could fill out the form it would be much appreciated . All the data will be collated to help support our children's transition back to school life.

<https://forms.gle/tLNM1Ja7UDwckN9t5>

Once again, we can't wait to see your children and welcome them back to School. We have missed them!

Ngā mihi

Sanjay Rama