



One Tree Point School

“Empowering Learners Who CARE”

Kia ora koutou

The Prime Minister has advised that in Alert Level 2, schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff - public health advice is unequivocal - it will be safe to restart schooling for everyone. Additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.

The good news is that we will be ready to welcome all students and staff back to our school site at Alert Level 2 from the beginning of the next school week after the announcement is made.

The overriding principles for Alert Level 2 are:

- Minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place.
- Ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in school is infected. As we have done in Alert Level 3, we will know who is at school, who our staff and students have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe. This means all families will be asked to drop off their children at the gate and avoid coming onto school grounds unless absolutely necessary. If you do need to come onto the school grounds, you will need to sign a register at the office. Please phone, email or text if you need to speak with a teacher. When collecting children from school please follow the advice to stay 1-2 metres away from anyone else.

The main changes for schools are:

- **Physical distancing** - Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. However, this is very challenging in schools and the government recognises there will be situations where physical distancing is not possible. Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site
- **Good Hygiene** - We will be reinforcing good hygiene practices and regular cleaning of shared surfaces such as door handles and shared resources. Hand sanitiser will be available in every room and we will teach children to sanitise before entering, eating and after using shared resources. 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.

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We will also adjust our school routines to avoid situations where children spend time in another person's 'breath zone', for example the whole class sitting on the mat. We all just need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2!

- **Mass Gatherings** - Schools are not considered mass gatherings and there are no restrictions on the number of people inside or outside at school. We won't however hold assemblies as this requires children to sit close together for a long period of time.
- **Sports and Playgrounds** - school playgrounds and sports equipment can be used and in-school Physical Education will resume.

Under Alert Level 2, students and staff will be advised to stay home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms of illness.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

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

We will be in touch again soon to update you on our plans.

Ngā mihi

Shirley Winters