



Trentham School

Empowered Learners for the Future

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Kia ora Trentham whānau

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.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister advised that in Alert Level 2 schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff and that additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing. The good news is that when we are able to, we will be ready to welcome all students and staff back to our school site.

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. As we have done in Alert Level 3, you can be assured that in Alert Level 2 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.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. We do however know it is challenging in schools, so good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here. This 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, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms of being unwell. If you have a child who might be vulnerable to serious illness, it is recommended that you speak to your health practitioner for advice on attendance at school. Under Level 2 it is safe to send your children to school and we encourage you to do so. Please do get in touch with us if you wish to discuss this further.

Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. As described by Dr Payinda in his [NZ Herald article](#), "Covid's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone". We all just need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2!

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.

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

We currently remain in Alert Level 3. The Minister announced that schools wouldn't open midweek. Whenever the decision is made, schools would open at the beginning of the following week. If on Monday it is announced that we are moving to Level 2 from next Thursday, then schools would officially open on Monday 18 May. This will be communicated with you as soon as we know.

Next week schools will continue to support students learning from home and we will support our 2 bubbles onsite. When Level 2 commences staff will be returning to school to prepare their classrooms and learning programmes ready for when we officially open. There is a lot to do.

Thanks to those of you who have completed our distance learning survey. Your feedback is really important to us so please try and complete it by this Sunday the 10th of May.

[Whanau Survey - Distance Learning at Trentham School](#)

We are currently working through our health and safety plan for Alert Level 2. I will be in touch again next week to update you on our plans. Have a great weekend everyone and Happy Mother's Day to all our mums!

Ngā mihi

Suzanne Su'a

PRINCIPAL

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