



Tuesday 25th August 2020

Kia ora koutou

Once again like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister, and if so you will already be aware we are remaining at Alert Level 3 until 11.59pm on Sunday 30th August, so this week we all continue doing what we are doing. A massive thank you in advance for all your support and goodwill.

At this announcement yesterday the Prime Minister advised that at Alert Level 2 schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff to return to school, and as such school resumes for all at:

8.30am on Monday 31st August.

Upon arrival at school go straight to your form class, unless you **received a school owned Chromebook while in lockdown which needs to be returned Day 1, along with the charger cord, to the school hall, before you go to your form class.**

We are already preparing our school for the return of our students and are really looking forward to seeing lots of children in and around our amazing school! It hasn't been the same the last few weeks.

Remember being at Alert Level 2, means the disease is contained and it is basically business as usual. Students are expected to be present unless sick, and if they are sick you need to follow the normal absence procedures. If children are away for consecutive days and are not sick then the attendance procedures and referrals kick in as per school and Ministry of Education policies and procedures. Children need to be at school, unless sick! There will be appropriate measures in place around our cleaning and the likes and of course, the biggest test of distance is 'moist breathe distance'. There is however one key change introduced at Alert Level 2 and that is that face coverings will be required on any form of public transport – no age limit was stated however so watch this space around that!

PPE is not required or recommended as necessary in any educational facility by the Public Health Service, so face coverings and the like are not required inside the school at any level. We will observe children on arrival checking for symptoms and ask those presenting as unwell to go home or arrange for you to come and pick up (please note, this does not mean that we take temperatures).

The key Public Health approach to Level 2 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 our 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.

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 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.

Ngā mihi

Iain Taylor
Principal

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION!

The Ministry of Education have provided guidelines regarding what in-school health measures must be taken. These have been followed in the points below.

What will Manurewa Intermediate School look like at alert level 2?

As of 31st August, we are planning for the following:

1. The cleaning regime will continue as per Level 3, as indicated in my letter dated during the first lockdown on 21st April.
2. The reception counter will be open but with enforced safe physical distancing.
3. **Students and staff** will follow the safe physical distancing guide from the Ministry of Health by staying outside of each other's moist breath zone. All **visitors** on site will follow safe physical distancing of 2 metres.
4. Hand sanitiser will be available in each classroom space.
5. Devices will be sanitised at the beginning and at the end of each day. Devices will be used by the same student.
6. Any child that appears sick at school will be sent home immediately. Parents/Caregivers will be rung, and you will collect immediately, with your child being isolated until you arrive. The definition for 'appearing sick; includes: coughing, runny nose, chesty coughs, exposed skin lesions, headaches. If your child displays these before coming to school please don't send them! This will create more issues for you as we will call you to collect immediately.

What will be the difference between learning at home vs learning at school during level 2?

There is no distance learning at home in Level 2. All students and staff are expected to be at school unless they are sick.

What happens when I see people I know and haven't seen for ages?

At Manurewa Intermediate the blanket rule is there is to be no physical touch whatsoever outside of sports practice. So that means no high fives, handshakes, hugging, kissing, foot tapping, elbow touches or fist bumps.

What if my child is sick?

As per normal routines and expectations you will contact the school office (266 8268 xtn 1) to advise us your child is sick and upon return bring a medical certificate. Please note it is important if your child is sick that you go to the doctors and return to school with a medical certificate. Because Level 2 is school as usual on site, no distance learning will be provided for absent sick students.

Will all staff be back at school?

All staff will now be back on site from the onset of Level 2.

Will the school office be open?

The office staff will be available as per usual but with appropriate physical distancing required by all students and visitors. If you need to come to the office you will need to ensure you click the Contact Tracer Q code which is situated right inside the reception door on the left hand side, so we can keep track of visitors.

Will Before and After school programmes/clubs etc operate?

Yes but these will be re-started on a case by case basis. You will be advised as necessary etc.

So what does this mean we can do?

Assemblies - can go ahead however you should maintain sufficient distance between students so they aren't touching or breathing directly on each other. There are no restrictions on the number of students attending assemblies.

Sports (on school grounds) – physical activities including using shared equipment can go ahead. Physical distancing is not possible in 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.

Cultural activities - practices and rehearsals will be able to go ahead (note the physical distancing recommendation of 1 metre distance where practicable, for singing and wind instruments). Performances where visitors are attending, including parents and caregivers, will need to align with public health requirements for gatherings. **However our in-school marae stays scheduled between now and the end of term 3 may not happen until term 4. You will be advised as necessary once we know.**

Inter-school events – these can go ahead although there will be limitations due to the public health measures required and will need specific contact tracing ability of those playing for and against teams. Where people from outside the school may be attending or if you are hiring out your hall or allowing community groups to use school facilities, the rules for gatherings will apply.