

Tuesday 30th August 2021

Kia ora koutou whanau/aiga

**RE: REMAINING AT ALERT LEVEL 4:
School remains closed for the next **FOURTEEN** days, at least, for everyone!**

Once again, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcement made this afternoon by the Prime Minister, and indeed, like me, you probably anticipated a further extension of Alert Level 4, and, so it is. **All of Auckland are remaining at Alert Level 4 until 11.59pm on Tuesday 14th September,** and as such all schools are closed. So until then we all continue doing what we are doing with our distance learning programmes.

Your child's form teacher will continue to be in direct daily contact by phone or text, and learning will continue online as it is now for those with devices and internet access. For those without this your form teacher will continue to keep in touch with you via daily phone calls or text, and the schoolwork being your hard copy learning pack.

Despite this news, it is pleasing to see Alert Level 4 is having its impact on the number of confirmed cases, with numbers not dramatically increasing as they would likely have done if we had been at a lower Alert Level.

Health authorities are also casting a MUCH wider net to determine who is a contact of a confirmed case. People who previously might have been considered a casual contact are now being treated as contacts. Where schools may have closed for three days while contact tracing was undertaken, they are now closing for 14 days with staff and students all self-isolating for that time. As a result, there are more than 13,000 close contacts being followed up by health authorities.

There is a lot we can all do to continue to protect our whānau and community from COVID-19 including:

- Everyone must continue to stay home in their bubble
- Do not mix with other household bubbles – if they have COVID-19, it can easily spread to your household, and every other household they and you are connecting with
- As new cases are identified, [new locations of interest are added to the Ministry of Health website](#) – please keep checking this. You can search by your location and they are sorted by date, so you only need to check the locations which have been added when you last checked
- Wash your hands regularly, especially when you have been out in public
- Stay home if you are feeling unwell and seek advice about whether you need to get a test
- Wear a face covering when out and about, and you **MUST** wear a face covering in any businesses or services which are open at Alert Level 4 (unless you have specifically been exempted from doing so, which includes anyone aged under 12)
- Keep a two-metre distance from people outside your household bubble
- Check in using the [NZ COVID Tracer App](#) wherever you go or keep a manual record (a reminder the App only stores information on your own phone – no one else will know who it is that checked in, or when).

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 4, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

Finally, we know some families in our community may be finding it difficult to access food and essential items such as medicine. This information about [how to access to food or essential items](#) summarises the supports that are available, including financial help to buy food.

As always, please do take care and let us know if there is anything you need, and that we can help you with to support you and your tamariki during this time. A massive thank you in advance for all your support and goodwill

Kia kaha and faamalosi whānau!

Ngā mihi

Iain Taylor
Principal