

11/05/2020



Kia ora Whanau

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.

Massey Road
Box 2, Reporoa, 3060
Phone 07 3338350
Cell 027 660 2281
office@rep.school.nz
Principal: Richelle McDonald
principal@rep.school.nz

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. If the country goes into level 2 (announcement on Monday 11th May), the earliest we will be back at school is **Monday 18th May**. If you DO NOT want your child to return to school in level 2, please email me prior to Wednesday 13th May.

The overriding principles for Alert Level 2 are:

1. to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place
2. to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school or early learning centre is infected
3. understand that Level 2 is not business as usual
 - It is safe for all students and staff to return to school in Alert level 2. Schools are safe because hygiene
 - habits will be strong and schools will put into place safe and sensible practice.
 - Schools won't open midweek. Whenever the decision is made, they will open at the beginning of the following week
 - Distance learning is available for those unable to attend school, for example who are self-isolating.
 - School transport is able to increase as the number of students increases.
 - People at higher-risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (eg those with underlying medical conditions, especially if not well-controlled) are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home. They may work, if they agree with their employer that they can do so safely.
 - The safety and wellbeing of students, staff and their households, continues to be a priority.

Some further information about Reporoa Primary School in level 2 is as follows:

Classrooms:

- Under Alert Level 2 hand sanitiser will be provided in every classroom. Hand sanitiser stations will be set up at the designated entry and exit points of each classroom and Students and Staff will use this as they enter the room. Students will wash hands with soap and water before and after all break times, PE sessions and toilet breaks.
- Additional disinfectant/cloth will be available in classrooms for children and teachers to sanitise spaces throughout the school day as required.
- Many students have their own stationary, supplies and devices and will be encouraged not to share this.

At pick up and drop off:

- Under Alert Level 2 parents and **caregivers will not be allowed on site** unless they have a specific purpose in which case they **MUST** sign the COVID-19 register at the office. We wish to encourage a drop off and pick up only approach to restrict the number of **'adults on-site'**.
- Please be respectful of this as it is the **'most likely'** chance of Covid-19 entering the school grounds.
- Students will not be allowed to enter before 8:15am.

Class Bubbles:

- There is no bubble concept at Alert Level 2 so there are no restrictions on groups of students mixing with others on site.
- Physical Distancing – Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. Children, young people and staff should be far enough away from each other so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, coupled with good hygiene practices and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. There does not need to be a specific measurement but where practicable 1 metre should be used as a guide, particularly between adults.

Staffroom:

- Staff are expected to maintain a minimum of 1m physical distance at all times including in the staffroom.
- Cups, spoons etc. to be personally handled into the dishwasher.
- Soap and sanitiser will be provided in the staffroom. Disinfectant/wipes available to be used on shared keypads (e.g. photocopier and alarm).

Playground:

- Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment including playgrounds but hygiene practice should be observed before and after playing with equipment. There will also be regular cleaning of shared equipment such as balls, sticks etc.
- Drinking fountains will remain turned off. Students will need a named drink bottle at school.

Managing Attendance:

- Students and Staff will not attend if they are unwell. Students and Staff who become unwell during the school day will be sent home.
- In schools 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.

- This includes recording who the adults on-site are in close contact with as well as **recording any visitors to the site, including parents and caregivers.**
- Entry to school for students must be via the front or back gate.

Cleaning and Hygiene:

- Cleaners will complete daily cleans in line with the Ministry of Health guidelines, including toilet blocks, door handle, and surface cleaning.
- In an Alert Level 2 we will continue to model good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.
- Children will use hand sanitiser in entry to classrooms, wash hands before and after play and PE, and sanitise prior to leaving at the end of the day. If you wish to send your child with their own hand sanitiser, please feel free to do so but we do have a supply at school.

Movement in and out of school:

- No School Assemblies for the remainder of Level 2. This will remain online.
- There will be no Winter Sports for May. Changes will be communicated as they happen.

Reporting to parents:

- When students return to school in Alert Level 2 their wellbeing will be our number one priority before any academic learning and assessment takes place.
- We will share a more detailed plan for how we will report in due course, but there will be no Mid-Year Report in Term 2. Teachers will use this time to gather up to date information and evidence to help them make informed decisions of their classes' next steps and identify individual learning goals. The online report is likely to be available early term 3.

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.

Ngā mihi

Nāku i runga i aku mihi ki a koe

Richelle McDonald

