



8 May 2020

Kia ora koutou,

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister and it is reassuring to hear how well our country has done at minimising the impacts of COVID-19. Alert Levels 4 and 3 have presented many challenges and it has been gratifying to see our community working together to get through this.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister advised that at Alert Level 2 schools are safe environments for 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. On Monday, the government will decide whether to move to Alert Level 2.

The good news is that when we do move to Alert Level 2, we will be ready to welcome **all** students and staff back to our school site. As schools will re-open on the first day of a week, the earliest we will be open will be **18 May**. Personally, I can hardly wait. I have missed you!

The key Public Health approach will be firstly, to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and secondly to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with someone infected.

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. We will emphasize good hygiene practices including handwashing and drying and regular cleaning of all spaces with a focus on commonly touched surfaces. When we are open for all students, 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.

As described by Dr Payinda, “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.

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 early next week to update you on our plans.

Ngā mihi  
Amy  
Principal/Tumuaki