

Moving to Alert Level 2 at St Joseph's - Thursday 9 September

Kia ora koutou,

You'll be aware that all of New Zealand (with the exception of Auckland) is moving to Alert Level 2 from midnight tonight. Our thoughts and positive wishes are with everyone in Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland.

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back onsite on Thursday morning. Tomorrow (Wednesday) we will be continuing to support the ākonga who have been onsite at Alert Level 3 while we prepare for re-opening to all on Thursday.

At Alert Level 2 there is low risk of community transmission and it provides us with a lot more opportunities to engage and connect with others. However, there are still a number of public health requirements we all need to follow. Please continue to monitor your health and do not send your children to school if they are not well (and please seek advice about getting a COVID test).

For us, all the required safety precautions for Alert Level 2 will be in place which include following all the recommendations from the public health experts. This means we will regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, encourage everyone to frequently wash their hands and cough and sneeze into their elbow.

While physical distancing is not a requirement in schools, we will be doing our best to keep students from congregating in very large numbers and keeping spaces well-ventilated.

Face coverings are not required to be worn in school. However, while the Director General of Health has recommended that children 12 years+ wear a face covering at school – just as older children are required to wear face coverings in some other places the decision to wear a face covering is up to you and your whānau. Whatever your decision it will be respected.

Please see our St Joseph's COVID alert level 2 safety plan for all specifics around how our school will operate, below are some of the key points which will affect you directly -

- **There will be one staff member designated at entry to supervise drop off (8.15-8.45am) and pick up (3.00-3.15pm) and ensure students get to class safely - please adhere to these times.**
- **Under Alert Level 2 parents and caregivers will be discouraged from coming on site unless absolutely necessary. Please be respectful of this as it is the 'most likely' chance of COVID-19 entering the school grounds.**
- **Parents are asked to 'drop off and pick up' at the main gate in the car park or at the Victoria St entrance and remain in their vehicles or outside the school gates.**
- **Students must bring their own named lunchbox and water bottle - outside fountains will be turned off.**
- **Food provision (e.g Anderson's and Subway) will resume next week.**

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's kaiako or myself if there is something you need assistance with. See you Thursday!

Ngā mihi
Tracey Drought