

Tuesday, 7 September 2021

Kia ora koutou

The Government has expressed confidence that it is safe to allow a shift down to Alert Level 2 across most of New Zealand (with the exception of Auckland). This is a very welcome step and we are really looking forward to seeing everyone back onsite on Thursday morning at 8.30 am.

Firstly, apologies for the length of this community communication and the delay in its arrival. We have been waiting on the official update from the Ministry of Education. It has now arrived and we have used that information to inform the guidance below.

Students will start the day on Thursday at 8.30 am, with an extended form time to 'check and connect'. Period 2 will follow at 9.35 am, followed by interval at the usual time and then periods 3 - 6 as per normal. Students who begin Thursday's with unsupervised study are asked to attend form time at 8.30 am and will spend period 2 supervised in the study centre.

To prevent congestion at the end of the day with students departing. Year 9 and 10 students will be released at 2.25 pm and the remaining students (seniors) at 2.30 pm.

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).
- Face coverings are not required to be worn in school. 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.
- Frequent washing of hands and coughing and sneezing into elbows will be encouraged.
- In school cleaning protocols will be followed.

For most day-to-day activities at schools, the rules for gatherings do not apply. 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. Any event or activity that brings people onsite who are not there for education purposes, including students, parents and caregivers, will need to have the [rules for gatherings applied](#).

As occurred previously at Alert Level 2, education outside the classroom (EOTC) activities, including overnight trips can go ahead, but will need careful planning. Education Outdoors New Zealand is currently updating their very good guidance for Alert Level 2. This update should be available for schools tomorrow .

Chromebooks and BYOD at Alert Level 2.

With our return to school on Thursday we are asking that all students that have their own Chromebook or laptop bring that to school to support their learning. We have issued Chromebooks to students who did not have one over this lockdown period to ensure students could continue to access learning. We know that not all families accessed this option or were sharing devices at home and may now need to access a school device. We have a very limited number of devices left that we can share with students. If you would like to go on the list to access one of these devices please email Louisa Clissold on Cll@papanui.school.nz. A letter will be available to students on Thursday to take home to their parents for signing. Priority will be given to senior students completing NCEA assessments. We ask that this letter is returned as soon as possible so we can start to issue the remaining Chromebooks on Friday, 10 September.

It is important that, wherever possible, students bring their own device to school for learning. A very limited number of devices will be available during the school day.

Co-Curricular Activities

We appreciate the support and patience we have received as we work through a plan to reintroduce the co-curricular programmes that we offer. The co-curricular programme will remain on hold for Week 7. We are working through the expected health and safety requirements as quickly as practicable (which is inclusive of the regulations provided by a number of governing bodies) as we appreciate the positive physical and mental health benefits that our programmes provide to our young people. We also appreciate that co-curricular activities provide students with a strong connection to the school, something we know to be important, as they return to a sense of normality and therefore we hope to see several areas of our programme resume as soon as possible.

Update from Northlands Shopping Centre

Northlands Mall has asked us to share some information with you regarding their responsibility to the Alert Level 2 Ministry of Health requirements. This means the mall is limited to the number of people that can be inside at one time. Students are unable to use the mall to walk to and from the bus stop, this includes the shortcuts through the underground carpark. After school, students should only enter the mall if they have a specific shopping purpose. Students need to purchase food/drink to sit in the food court. They are not able to window shop or gather in groups for socialising. If students are not in the mall to purchase things they will be asked to move on.

The Mall staff greatly appreciate your support and understanding with this.

As we look forward to the opportunities Alert Level 2 brings to our school community, we share our thoughts and positive wishes with everyone in Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland.

Tomorrow (Wednesday) staff will be preparing to welcome our students back to onsite learning on Thursday.

Keep safe and take care.

He waka eke noa - We are all in this together

Ngā mihi nui

Jeff Smith

Principal - Tumuaki

If you are not sure what all the rules are for Alert Level 2 when you are out and about, then the following information may be useful to you:

- [COVID-19 Alert Levels summary table](#)
- [COVID-19 Alert Levels detailed table](#)