

May 9 2020



Kia ora koutou

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister on Thursday afternoon.

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.

On Thursday, 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 moves to Alert Level 2 I imagine that school will begin on Monday 18 May...to be confirmed!

The key Public Health approach is to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected.

As we have done in Alert Level 3, 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.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease so good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here. This includes staff and students coughing into their elbows, handwashing and drying and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

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. I would recommend speaking to your doctor if you have any questions regarding your child's health and their ability to attend school.

Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. As described by Dr Payinda in his [NZ Herald article](#), "Covid's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on

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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!

It's important however that not just at school but at home, safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone, as this is essential to minimise the risk that someone gets infected with Covid-19. It would be helpful if children had their own named water bottle when we return to school.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

Junior classes learning will continue the hall, however **Miss Higgins will be moving her class from the hall into Room 24**. This will lower the hall numbers and provide a bit more space. The sound insulation baffles have all been installed, there is now plenty of carpet and rugs on the floor. Our large gas heater was upgraded in 2019 and will easily heat the hall as required. The other classes will operate as normal in this space.

The building work is back underway in the junior block and is progressing really well. The guys plan to begin lining the walls (gibbing) next week, and we have been informed that there are currently no hold ups in accessing materials. We did of course lose 5 weeks due to the enforced lockdown, however the work is moving at a good rate which is good news!

I will be in touch again early next week to update you with more details once these come to hand. Thank you again for your support during this unique period in time!

Please feel free to contact me via email craig.vidulich@kapanui.school.nz or call me directly on 027 407 8834 if you have any questions or queries.

Ngā mihi nui,

Craig Vidulich on behalf of the Kapakapanui School Staff and BoT

