

Kia ora koutou

With the <u>announcement</u> that New Zealand has moved to <u>Alert Level 2 – Reduce Contact</u> for COVID-19, people over 70 years of age, and those with compromised immunity and certain existing medical conditions, are asked to remain at home as much as they can from now on and avoid any non-essential travel.

The Ministry of Education has asked that staff, children and young people in schools and early learning services now follow this advice.

Alert Level 2 means the virus is contained but with the risk of community transmission growing. Below is the section of the table that applies to Level 2 – Reduce Contact. We will post the whole table on our school Facebook page.

Level 2 - Reduce

Disease is contained, but risks of community transmission growing

- High risk of importing COVID-19 OR
- Uptick in imported cases OR
 Uptick in household transmission OR
- Single or isolated cluster outbreak
- Entry border measures maximised
- Physical distancing on public transport (e.g. leave the seat next to you empty if you can)
- Limit non-essential travel around New Zealand
- Employers start alternative ways of working if possible (e.g. ramote working, shift-based working, physical distancing within the workplace, staggering meal breaks, flexible leave arrangements)
- Business continuity plans activate
- High-risk people advised to remain at home (e.g. those over 70 or those with other existing medical conditions)

High risk individuals

Older people, particularly those with pre-existing health problems are more likely to get severe illness and are considered at risk. High risk individuals also include people with underlying medical conditions, such as:

- respiratory conditions including asthma;
- a compromised immune system;
- liver disease;
- cancer;
- kidney disease;
- heart disease; and
- diabetes mellitus.

If your child/children have one of the existing conditions mentioned you are being asked to keep them home from school for their own safety.

We have also asked staff who have concerns about their health to stay away from school.

Further information is available at:

- https://covid19.govt.nz/help-and-advice/for-everyone/vulnerable-people/
- https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-questions-and-answers

It is important to remember that there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at our school nor in our community. All children without existing health conditions and who are feeling well should attend school as they normally do.

We know COVID-19 feels scary and of course people are concerned for the wellbeing of our children. That is why we are providing up to date advice and guidance so that we can all make informed decisions. The Board of Trustees and I are resolute in our commitment to supporting the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

If your child does feel sick with cold or flu-like symptoms such as cough, sore throat, headache, runny nose, just as you normally would, please keep them at home. Call or text the school to inform the main office. As a family then ring the health line **0800 358 5453**.

The country and the World is going through major changes due to COVID-19. This is the time that we do all we can to support one another and to look after our community and demonstrate our KORAU values.

Let's stay calm, be safe, stick to the Facts and wash our hands

Ngā mihi nui

Dave Lamont Principal

Koraunui School