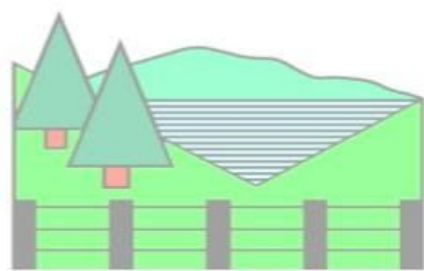


TOGETHER



WE GROW

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Emergency Dental Unit 0800 825 583



8th May 2020

Principal's message

Kia ora koutou

Following is an extract from the communications we received yesterday from the Ministry of Education. I have taken out the key points to keep you updated. Once the PM makes an announcement on Monday I will update everyone on what this means for us.

The decision about moving between Alert Levels will be announced by the Prime Minister on Monday 11 May. That decision will be based on public health information, in particular low or no community transmission. The decision will be fit for the New Zealand context. I know there is a lot of reference to how other countries are responding to COVID-19 but ours has been a unique approach, drawing on the best interventions from around the world and consistent with New Zealand values.

This Bulletin provides you with the detail of Alert Level 2. I know that this has been eagerly awaited. This is what will be expected once the Government has decided to shift to Alert Level 2. Until then, we remain in Level 3...

Level 2 is all about being safe and sensible and that is the approach that goes through the public health and our own guidance for schools. There is a lot to work through but you do not have to do this on your own - we are here to help...

We have made it this far and have a way to go but we'll get there together.

Below are some key messages from the Prime Minister.

Under Alert Level 2:

"Early learning services, schools and tertiary education facilities are all open."

"Schools and early learning services are safe environments for children, young people and staff. Additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing."

"Schools and early learning services will engage with parents about children returning at Alert level 2."

"Distance learning is available for those unable to attend school, for example who are self-isolating."

"Tertiary education facilities too will maintain the core capability to deliver comprehensive distance learning to students."

"If a school has a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, they must close on an individual or group basis for 72 hours, to allow contact tracing, and then potentially for a further 14 days."

"We also agreed that when we make the decision to move levels, schools won't open midweek – whenever the decision is made – they will open at the beginning of the following week. So if we make a decision to shift to Alert Level 2 next week, schools and early learning centres will have ten days from now to prepare."

"The two key public health principles we're talking to the sector about are one: to reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place and two, to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected."

So keeping kids at home if they're sick, and good hygiene such as hand washing are so important."

"Where possible physical distancing is a good precaution. We do, however, know it is near impossible in an early learning environment and challenging in schools. So good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here."

"In schools, physical distancing means children, young people and staff maintaining enough distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other. And maintaining good hygiene practices, and regular cleaning. As is regular cleaning of equipment."

"And all schools and early learning services will collect information about who's there, so Public Health can contact people quickly if they need to."

"We know parents will have lots of questions, but please give schools and early learning centres time to plan and contact you."

If you have any questions please get in touch.

Have a great weekend.

Keep safe, take care.

Rick