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Monday 6 September 2021

Kia ora e te Mātai Rangatira Whānau,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement at 4pm today physical school will resume at Glentunnel on Thursday 9 September at Alert Level 2. In order to ensure everyone has a successful transition back to school and for the health and safety of everyone, please read the following information with your child. We look forward to having tamariki and whānau back to school.

Alert Level 2 Covid-19 - Thursday 9 September onwards

Level 2 – Reduce

The disease is contained, but the risk of community transmission remains

- Household transmission could be occurring.
- Single or isolated cluster outbreaks.

- People can reconnect with friends and family, and socialise in groups of up to 100, go shopping, or travel domestically, if following public health guidance.
- Keep physical distancing of two metres from people you don't know when out in public or in retail stores. Keep one metre physical distancing in controlled environments like workplaces, where practicable.
- No more than 100 people at gatherings, including weddings, birthdays and funerals and tangihanga.
- Businesses can open to the public if following public health guidance including physical distancing and record keeping. Alternative ways of working are encouraged where possible.
- Hospitality businesses must keep groups of customers separated, seated, and served by a single person. Maximum of 100 people at a time.

- Sport and recreation activities are allowed, subject to conditions on gatherings, record keeping, and – where practical – physical distancing.
- Public venues such as museums, libraries and pools can open if they comply with public health measures and ensure 1 metre physical distancing and record keeping.
- Event facilities, including cinemas, stadiums, concert venues and casinos can have more than 100 people at a time, provided that there are no more than 100 in a defined space, and the groups do not mix.
- Health and disability care services operate as normally as possible.
- It is safe to send your children to schools, early learning services and tertiary education. There will be appropriate measures in place.
- People at higher-risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (e.g. those with underlying medical conditions, especially if not well-controlled, and seniors) are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home. They may work, if they agree with their employer that they can do so safely.

What we will do at Glentunnel School:

1. Use good hygiene practices -

- Use the hand sanitizers coming in and going out of school at the front gate and bus gate.
- Tamariki when entering classes and exiting classes use the hand sanitizer. Juniors in Rm 2 & 3 will wash their hands in the classroom basins.
- Wash your hands before going to the toilet and after going to the toilet for 20 seconds.
- At the end of the day desks and class surfaces will be 'spray and wiped'. Regular cleaning also occurs.

2. Contact Tracing and Mask wearing-

- Parents/caregivers can come into the school grounds but please USE the QR Code at the entry and exit points, if you have a smartphone
- IF NO QR Code smartphone parents/caregivers fill in the contact tracing paper form in their child's class, only if you go into the class or the school office
- When/if a parent or outside agency visitor comes to the office, they need to fill in the contract tracing form or use the QR reader in the school office.
- Masks are not mandatory but recommended and OPTIONAL for children under 12 years old.
- Masks are NOT expected to be worn on the School Bus.

3. Social Distancing -

- School is a safe environment and personnel and parents/caregivers contact details are known. Remember the moist breath zone. Tamariki will be shown a video of this.
- School Assemblies will not be held for the next few weeks until a change in gatherings indoors increases
- People you don't know within the school environment, please keep a 2m distance.
- Outside of school please keep a 2m distance from people not known to you.
- Avoid physical contact like handshaking.

Ngā mihi nui,

Ed Trotter
Tumuaki/Principal

We will follow the [MOH & MOE recommendations and Covid-19 Level conditions](#)

- At Alert Level 2 it is safe for all students, children and staff to attend school and early learning. There will be appropriate precautions in place.
- Children and staff who are at higher-risk of severe illness are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home.
- Please be alert to illness and ask anyone who is presenting as unwell to go home, or ask parents and caregivers to come and pick the child up.
- Messaging about good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette to be reinforced.
- Soap and water is very appropriate for washing hands, particularly if hand sanitiser stocks are low.
- For schools, children, young people and staff should be far enough away from each other so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, coupled with good hygiene practices and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. There does not need to be a specific measurement but where practicable and reasonable 1 metre can be used as a guide, particularly between adults.
- In early learning there does not need to be a measurable physical distance between children/tamariki or children/tamariki and staff. However adults should where practicable use 1 metre as a guide between themselves and other adults.
- Physical distancing of 2 metres is recommended for parents and caregivers, from people they don't know (to align with public health measures outside the school grounds).
- School hostels will continue to operate for those boarders who are unable to safely return home. See the Alert Level 2 guidance for hostels as a reminder of what is required.
- Support your community by displaying the QR code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App.
- **Masks** - not mandatory but recommended. Optional for children under 12.

10 things you need to know about Alert Level 2

1. Schools are open to everyone, and all children must attend.

At Alert Level 2 the disease is contained but there is still risk of community transmission. It is safe for children and staff to attend school and for school hostels to be operating as there will be appropriate measures in place, including for children and staff vulnerable to severe illness.

2. Learning will be onsite with distance learning offered in some circumstances.

Distance learning should be provided for those required to self-isolate, those individuals who health authorities have asked to stay away while waiting for a test result, or those choosing to remain at home because they are vulnerable to illness.

3. Schools are not classified as gatherings and a range of events and activities can go ahead.

For most day to day activities at schools, the rules for gatherings do not apply. Under the COVID-19 Public Health Response Order, schools are exempted from physical distancing requirements when people are there to receive, provide, or support education services.

However as soon as your event or activity brings people onsite who are not there for education purposes, including students, parents and caregivers, then the rules for gatherings do apply. This would include performances such as school plays, cultural events and sporting activities.

4. Schools will close for cleaning and contact tracing if there is a confirmed case who was infectious when at school.

Your Director of Education will work closely with you and health authorities should this occur. Please contact your Ministry regional office if you hear of a confirmed case in your school community but haven't been advised about it by health officials.

5. Face coverings are not required at school or on any school transport.

This includes charter buses hired by the school to transport students and staff. Anyone who chooses to wear a face-covering in any setting should be supported to do so.

6. Sick people must stay at home.

They should seek medical advice if they have COVID-like symptoms and get tested if advised to do so. If that person displays relevant symptoms of COVID-19, tests positive

for COVID-19, or has been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate.

7. You must have a contact tracing system in place.

This includes displaying QR code posters at your entrances, your timetable, attendance register and visitor register.

8. Fundamental public health measures continue to apply at every alert level:

- Physical distancing (not touching and not breathing on each other at Alert Level 2)
- Hand hygiene
- Cough and sneeze etiquette
- Regularly cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces.

9. Think and plan carefully before you go ahead with any activity that brings a large number of students together and/or spectators are involved.

Some events may need to be cancelled or postponed when we are at Alert Level 2. Inter-regional travel is possible but only where you are confident the appropriate measures will be in place at the host venue, including requirements for gatherings.

10. Your Ministry regional office team is available to provide support.

For more detailed information for Alert Level 2, [please refer to our health and safety guidance](#).