



Hello Everyone,

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced that the larger Auckland area will move to Covid Alert Level 3 and that the rest of New Zealand (including Northland) will move to Alert Level 2 – *Reduce Contact for COVID 19*. This means that those over seventy years of age and those with compromised immunity and certain medical conditions are now asked to stay at home, isolate, and avoid any non-essential travel.

At this Alert Level schools remain open and we plan to do so however for us this means that:

- Anyone that has travelled to Auckland recently should not come to school, or indeed within the community, until they have received a negative Covid 19 test. The current outbreak is centred on South Auckland and though it remains unlikely that a short visit to Auckland would see anyone come into contact with Covid 19 this is the main area of risk for us all. Our advice to anyone that has travelled to Auckland is get tested as soon as possible and isolate until you have a negative test result.
- Anyone who is ill should stay at home and isolate. In most cases, anyone that is showing any signs of illness should get tested for Covid 19 and isolate at home until they feel well and receive a negative result from their Covid 19 test.
- Families should consider their broader situation before sending children to school. This means thinking about the at-risk people in their whanau and the affect that contracting the virus would have on them. People in this category include, but are not limited to, those over seventy, close family members who have underlining medical conditions, those that are pregnant, and those who are recovering from recent or ongoing medical situations.
- We are committed to doing our best to ensure that children continue to feel safe and supported even under these trying circumstances. Sending children to school is safe and indeed it is important to maintain routines and normality in children's lives. If there are no additional risk factors in your whanau and everyone in your family is well then please continue to send your children to school.
- We will continue to encourage and teach the core tenets of prevention including practicing high levels of personal hygiene, coughing into elbows and where possible social distancing. You should do this too whether your child is self-isolating or not.
- If advice is received from the Ministry of Health and/or Ministry of Education that there is a change in the Alert level then you will be advised as soon as practicable and all advice followed.

- Unless it is absolutely necessary, parents and caregivers are asked to stay away from school. Should you need to contact school please do this by telephone/messaging/email. If there is a reason that you need to come to school please call ahead to let us know when you are coming and be prepared to use the Covid 19 app (the Q-Code is on our front door) and/or sign in at the office

We want to make it very clear that isolating means staying at home and limiting visitors to those that are absolutely necessary. It is not an additional holiday but rather it is at the most serious level of national emergencies. It would not be acceptable for example for children isolating to be in Kaeo township, outside the boundary of your property, or visiting others. Travelling outside of the district is neither prudent nor sensible right now.

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>

At this stage we are hopeful, and hoping, that the source of the Auckland outbreak will be quickly found and isolated and that we can return to our relatively normal lives as quickly as possible. Until then let's work together to keep everyone safe.

Paul Barker

Principal

Kaeo School

Marco van den Broek

Chairperson

Kaeo School Board of Trustees.