



Hello Everyone,

Firstly, my apologies for taking so long to provide the following advice - it has been a busy and rapidly changing couple of weeks. Indeed, the governments Health Order around the requirements for the education sector are still not quite finalised, it is expected though that changes (if any) to that already advised will be minor.

Return to School:

School is closed tomorrow, and we are treating this as a very minor extension to the spring school holidays. There is a Covid Alert Level review on Monday at 4pm and we are hopeful that this will provide advice as to when Northland will return to Alert Level 2. When there is a change of Covid Alert Level, schools are provided one day to prepare for the return of the children. This is necessary as under Covid Alert Level 3 teachers have not been able to enter school and get fully ready for the term ahead. This being the case we expect that children will be able to return to school on Wednesday the 20th of October though this is dependent on Monday's announcement. If there is an extension of the Alert level that precludes a return to school on Wednesday I will get in touch via Facebook on Monday evening.

Education Vaccination Mandate:

The government has mandated compulsory vaccination against Covid 19 for all education workers and for those people that may come into contact with children in the school setting. Everyone can be assured that all adults at Kaeo School will be required to meet these very strict requirements.

Health and Hygiene.

It is very important that children that are unwell be kept home and that if any child presents as unwell at school that we can contact you and that they are collected promptly please.

We will again be practicing additional health and hygiene practices. All children will need to use hand sanitiser as they board the school bus and when they arrive at school. For those that walk or bike or come to school by vehicle then they will need to use hand sanitiser as they enter school. Children will also use hand sanitiser as appropriate throughout the day and as they leave school at the end of the day.

Additional cleaning will be undertaken of high-risk areas such as door handles and toilet areas throughout the day.

Parents/Caregivers at School

School remains largely closed to parents and caregivers under Alert Level 2 and it would be appreciated that if there is a need to contact school for any reason that this is done by telephone, email, or messenger. If this is absolutely unavoidable then parents/caregivers must wear a mask and sign in or preferably use the Covid 19 tracing app.

Parents dropping children at school are required to practice social distancing, preferably by remaining in their vehicles, and to wear a mask when in the school car park. When we return to school, we will have a marked off drop off area using traffic cones and a staff member will be at the front of the school to help collect and get your child into school safely. When collecting children at the end of the school day please wear a mask and stay in your car - we will deliver your child to you. Please be patient as we work our way through this.

The term ahead:

We are committed to making daily school life as normal and predictable as possible for the children. This is the best way to maximise the opportunity for children to feel safe and secure. This in turn provides the best possible platform for learning.

Term 4 usually has a number of important and traditional school events that we all enjoy as a community. We are unsure as to which of these will proceed but will spend some time over the coming days considering how best to manage these this year. Further information will be provided through our weekly newsletter.

Thanks again everyone for your patience and support as we work through this. We appreciate that it is, at least in part, difficult and a little inconvenient but by working together we will keep our children and staff safe and maximise the use of the remaining time we have of the school year.

Please, if you have any questions or concerns get in touch with me, I'll be happy to clarify and help.

Paul Barker,
Principal,
Kaeo School.