

Information for FVHS Parents and whanau regarding Alert Level 2 - COVID-19



You will be aware the government has recently made an announcement that when the country moves to Alert Level 2 schools can reopen for all students and staff.

We are currently putting together a plan for our students and staff to ensure safety of all members of our school community.

All of the below Public health and safety measures have been put in place:

Public health measures that must be taken in schools

In addition to your usual practices when managing health and safety, there are some specific public health requirements for Alert Level 2 that **must** be adhered to in all schools:

- Parents are asked to keep any sick children at home. If a sick child comes to school, send them home.
- 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 1 metre should be used as a guide, particularly between adults.
- Hand sanitiser at entry to class rooms and in shared spaces. Soap, water and the ability to dry hands must be provided in bathrooms.
- Where practicable ensure that children and young people regularly wash and dry hands, cough and sneeze into their elbow, and try to avoid touching their face.
- Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment including playgrounds but hygiene practice should be observed after playing with equipment.
- Disinfect and clean all surfaces daily.
- Contact tracing registers must be set up and identify which children and adults are on site, in each teaching space, including recording if there is a different composition of children and adults during the day. This includes recording visitors to the site, including parents.
- Consider whether students should be allowed off the premises at lunchtime.

PPE is not required or recommended as necessary in any educational facility by the Public Health Service.

We are aware you may still have concerns about your child returning to school and this advice may help with your decision. The Ministry of Education is recommending schools are now safe for all students to return. If your child has underlying health issues you are welcome to discuss individual plans with us.

Alert Level 2	Alert Level 3
Children at higher-risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (e.g. those with underlying medical conditions, especially if not well-controlled) are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home. Parents, caregivers and students will need to work with the school to develop a plan to manage a safe return to school. Distance learning will continue to be available to those who choose to remain at home.	Children at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are encouraged to stay home wherever possible.

This is further information the Ministry of Education has shared with us about the way we are able to operate at Alert Level 2:

Alert Level 2	Alert Level 3
<p>Schools, like workplaces are not considered to be gatherings under alert level 2. Therefore there are no bubbles and no changes are needed to breaks, start and finish times.</p> <p>If however a school brings others onsite eg hire out school hall, use of buildings by community groups, or events like school productions and school balls then the mass gathering rules will apply</p>	<p>Introduce staggered entry times into classes with one time for school transport, to minimise gatherings of children and/or parents.</p> <p>Breaks, starts and finishes should be staggered and children stay in their bubbles – again, to minimise congregation of students in shared spaces.</p>
Children do not need to sit in the same place every day at Alert Level 2. Contact tracing will still need to be in place though (through your timetable, attendance register and visitor register)	To support contact tracing students should sit in the same place each day
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 1 metre can be used as a guide, particularly between adults. Practice should be sensible.	Physical distancing was 2 metres outside and 1 metre inside previously
<p>Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment including playgrounds but hygiene practice should be observed before and after playing with equipment. There will also need to be regular cleaning of shared equipment such as balls, sticks etc.</p> <p>Physical distance is not possible in some sporting activities. In these situations extra emphasis on handwashing and drying (or cleansing with hand sanitiser) before and after activities and regular cleaning of equipment is very important.</p>	Physical education classes and break time activities cannot include sports with <2m physical distance or where the same equipment is touched by different students (balls, ropes, sticks, etc)

As parents and whanau we appreciate you have decisions to make for your children and whanau and we will support you with the decision you make. Learning from home options will still be available for your children if they are not able to rejoin us at Alert Level 2.

Buses will be running as normal with students being asked to sanitise their hands as they board the bus.

Noho ora mai

Joss Hale
Principal