

8 May 2020

Dear Parents/Whanau

COVID-19: Preparation for Transition to Alert Level 2:

I write this update with excitement and anticipation of a potential shift to Alert Level 2 in the coming days. I am sure, you too, have followed the most recent announcements and look forward to greater clarity in the coming week.

What has been particularly reassuring is the positive way in which our country has responded to potential threat. The work we have done, as a nation, to minimise the impact of COVID-19 has been tremendous; and whilst the requests associated with Level 4 and Level 3 have not been easy the Board of Trustees would like to express appreciation for your ongoing support for our school.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister advised that in Alert Level 2 schools are safe environments for children and staff. She also advised that additional public health measures will be in place to prevent the spread of disease and support our ability to contact trace. This means that when we are able to, we will be ready to welcome all students and staff back on to our school site.

The key public health approach is that we continue to minimise the risk that someone gets infected; and secondly ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact should they be on the school site. Therefore, as we have done in Alert Level 3, we will have systems in place to ensure we know who is at school, who our staff and students are in close contact with, and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe. As we anticipate the potential shift to Alert Level 2 we want to provide clarity around what it means for your children and our school. This includes:

- Currently we remain at Alert Level 3 - we have 3 bubbles of children working onsite with identified 'bubble teachers'. These children adhere to the guidelines of Alert Level 3.
- On Monday Cabinet will make announcements about whether we move to Alert Level 2 as a nation. If announced, we will remain in Alert Level 3 until midnight on Wednesday evening and on Thursday 14 May the country will transition to Alert Level 2.

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- The Government has confirmed that when the announcement for Level 2 is made; schools will not be expected to open mid-week. Instead, schools will open at the beginning of the following week allowing time to prepare spaces and plan for the return of students. This means that all going to plan, the earliest our school will open is Monday 18 May.
- Our school will continue to provide for those children in Alert Level 3 bubbles, and staff will return onsite to make preparations.
- When all students return to the school site we will implement safe practice guidelines. These will focus on minimising large groups, ensuring we know close contacts, giving others “breathing space”, identified play spaces for groups of children, and use of playground equipment etc. We will also have strict guidelines around access to school through the main gate, minimising additional people onsite, and visitors to the school.
- If you have a child who is vulnerable to serious illness we understand that you may wish to keep your child at home. We ask that you contact us directly to determine an ongoing learning plan for them in Alert Level 2. We also ask that any children who present as unwell remain at home. During this time, school is not suitable for any child or adult who is unwell.
- Both Coast Kids and Schools Out are determining the needs for Before and After School Care. If you have a specific need then you can make direct contact with your provider. Additionally, they have asked us to share the following google form. Please add your responses here: <https://forms.gle/DaD58h8hK71nkCgX9>

Once again we are excited at the possibility of a return to some sense of normal whilst still maintaining appropriate safety measures. We look forward to new information in the coming week and will communicate in a timely manner. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at office@taumata.school.nz

Kind regards,

Genavier Fuller

Principal (On behalf of the Taumata School Board of Trustees)