

CENTENNIAL PARK SCHOOL

“ Live Truly”

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4th May 2020

Kia ora e te whanau,

We wanted to give you a quick update on how we are doing under Alert Level 3. The Gov't will let us all know next Monday how long we will continue at this level before we hopefully change to Level 2. We will then let whanau know how we will manage this next step.

From the feedback I am getting from the Kaiako, our distance learning is working well. While it will certainly have challenges for you at home balancing work and care for your children, we are getting a lot of great feedback too. It is exciting to hear of the engagement that has been happening with our students, families and whānau and what they have been up to at home.

Although we were able to reopen our premises for staff and students onsite last week and this week, we were pleased all of our whanau decided to keep your tamariki home. We encourage this for throughout Level 3. We look forward to welcoming you all back into the kura in person very soon.

We also just want to provide some reassurance that our school is and will continue to be a safe place for your child to be and safe for our staff too.

We have closely followed the [public health measures](#) that have been put in place for Alert Level 3. These were set by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to minimise spread in the unlikely event that someone in our community is confirmed with COVID-19.

This means our small school bubbles are in place, our staff and students are staying 1 metre apart inside and 2 metres outside, our cleaning programme fully aligns with Health guidance, only essential visitors are coming into school and we have systems in place similar to supermarkets and dairies, to prevent those people from congregating.

We have hand sanitiser in classrooms and lots of reminders to students and staff to undertake good hygiene practices such as good cough and sneeze etiquette, and washing hands frequently.

Just to remind you also that COVID-19 is not an illness that impacts heavily on children and young people. There is always however, a small element of risk as social bubbles start to increase and with this in mind, it is important you work along-side your whanau to be able to make informed decisions.

An article by Dr Gary Payinda in the [NZ Herald](#) highlights the effect on young students:

- The young are less likely to get infected, less likely to get seriously ill, and less likely to spread the infection to others.
- When kids are affected, the illness is almost always mild. Luckily, unlike flu or many other infectious diseases, children with Covid are not super-spreaders.

- Covid's not measles or chickenpox; it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone.
- Make hand hygiene a habit - more than being scared of runners passing by, touching groceries, or standing in queues at the supermarket, we should be afraid of our own hands and how we can manage these.

For more information on how COVID-19 is spread go to the [Ministry of Health website](#).

Staying home if sick, physical distancing, good hand hygiene, not touching your face, good cough/sneeze etiquette and regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces minimizes any potential spread of the virus. Our school's health and safety system is all set up to ensure this happens.

Please get in touch if you have any questions, or please remain in contact with your child's Kaiako / teacher.

Nga manaakitanga ki a koutou katoa

Kevin Ikin - Principal - Centennial Park School / Te Kura Rautau