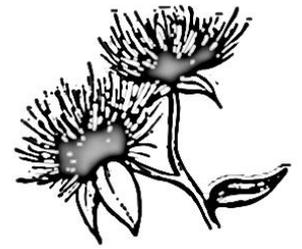


# Hororata Primary School



## PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN

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**DATE:** Friday 8 May 2020

### Executive Summary

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- Schools at Alert Level 2
- Extending our Bubble

### Overview

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister that the country is soon to transition from Alert Levels 3 to 2. It is reassuring to hear how well our country has done at minimising the impacts of COVID-19. Thank you for the mahi | work you have put in behind the scenes during this time.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister advised that at Alert Level 2, schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff and that additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.

The good news is that when schools are able to, our school is ready to welcome all students and staff back to our school site.

The key Public Health message is to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected.

As we have done in Alert Level 3, you can be assured in Alert Level 2 we will have clear protocols in place, so that we know who is at school, who our staff and students have been in close contact with and what actions we need to take to keep everyone safe.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. We do however know it is challenging in schools, so good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here. This includes staff and students coughing into their elbows, handwashing and drying and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

**It is important to note that until the Ministry of Education declare that it is safe for children to return to school, that parents will be asked to keep their children at home unless there is a necessity for them to attend school.**

**The actual return to start date will be dependent on the Government announcement on Monday 11 May 2020. Parents should not assume that school will start immediately after this.**

He waka eke noa | We are all in this waka together

Ngā mihi nui

**Marty Gameson (Principal - Tumuaki)**

## Schools at Alert Level 2

### **Overarching message: Leave home but in a safe way**

Schools will be open for children to attend and it is safe to do so.

There is further opening up of activity during Alert Level 2, particularly in terms of travel, education, sport and recreational activity, retail and hospitality, and personal movement. But it is not business as usual. Public health and border measures remain largely unchanged from Level 3, to ensure our approach to contact tracing, testing, isolation and quarantine is maintained.

**The most important things you can do are keep washing your hands, cough safely, and keep surfaces clean, just as you have been at Levels 3 and 4.**

The significant changes for schools are:

- **Physical Distancing** – Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. In an Alert level 2 school environment, this means children, young people, and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, coupled with good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. There are situations where physical distancing is not possible, such as 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.
- **Mass gatherings** – educational facilities, and school transport are not considered mass gatherings because they are managed environments. This means there are no restrictions on numbers of people indoors or outside at schools and early learning services other than what other public health or health and safety measures require.
- **Sports and playgrounds** – school playgrounds can open, sports equipment can be used and activities can resume. Contact sports can resume. This relies on being able to contact trace who is on site during school hours and at school team training and competitions. Any inter school events that recommence will need to have a contact tracing register in place to record those playing for and against teams.
- **Mixing Classes** - There are no restrictions on groups of children and students mixing with others on site. Where practicable where groups/classes do mix – attendance should be recorded as it should if the composition of groups and classes change during the day.  
Teachers/staff are not restricted to one group.

### **Specific public health measures to be taken in schools:**

**Where schools are open on site, distance learning will still be available for those students not able to attend.**

- 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 1m 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.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) is not required or recommended as necessary in any educational facility by the Public Health Service.

## Extending our Bubble

Next week we will be extending the learning bubble here at school. We have chosen to do this as we are satisfied that the systems and protocols in place are robust enough to cope with more students. The decision to extend our bubble is not an invitation for all students to return to school, but instead to have been made to support those families who need their children to attend school.

**Please note that all Alert Level 3 protocols will stay in place at our school until such time as we are advised that it is safe for us to change them.**

### School is under Alert Level 3 protocols until otherwise notified:

- Students must stay home if they can.
- Students/Staff at higher risk of severe illness must stay at home.
- Students/Staff must stay home if unwell.
- Students will be required to sit in the same spot every day and keep a one-metre distance from each other inside and two metres outside.
- Students and Teachers will be in bubbles of 10.
- Whanau will be kept in the same bubble.
- No bubbles will mix.
- Each bubble will have their allocated hand washing, sanitising and toilet facilities.
- Students will be taught by teachers other than their normal classroom teachers.
- Children will all be placed in small Learning Bubbles consisting of students and teachers (incl. principal).
- Teacher aides are not required to attend work during Alert Level 3.
- Students can't participate in any activities at lunch or during physical education that require them being closer than two metres or touching shared equipment e.g., balls, ropes & sticks.
- Distance learning continues for all. The onsite students will be supervised completing their assigned work.

### Students attending

Hororata Primary School will be extending its learning bubble for families who need to send their children to school from Monday 11 May 2020. We are looking forward to welcoming some new faces into our learning bubble and want to reassure you that we will be doing everything we can to keep your children as safe as possible.

- **School will be open from 0845 – 1500hrs (incl. drop-off/pick-up windows).**
- **When dropping off students, all students are to wait at the flagpole until greeted by a staff member. No caregivers are permitted to enter buildings. This also applies after school.**
- **No water fountains are to be used during Alert Level 3. Student will need to bring their own drink bottles.**
- **Normal procedures for notifying the school of a student's absence apply during Alert Level 3.**
- **No school bus transport is available during Alert Level 3.**

## COVID-19 Parenting Q & A

### 1. Can my child go to school under Alert Level 2?

- At Alert Level 2, all children and young people can attend school. Until school returns at Level 2, all children who can stay at home, should stay at home.

### 2. What about children who have existing health conditions?

- If a child has an existing health issue that puts them at risk, e.g. diabetes, lung conditions, severe asthma etc. then they need to remain at home at level 3.

### 3. Are children able to just turn up to school at Alert Level 3?

- NO. Our school has a health and safety process to work through to enrol all students for attendance during this time. This time allows for planning and staffing to be organised.

### 4. Can I enrol my child on the Alert Level 3 roll part time, because I have to work in an essential service a few days a week, the rest of the week they could stay home with me?

- YES. Contact the principal via email to let him know the exact days you need us to supervise your child at school.

### 5. My children are driving me nuts! Although I am at home, I would like a break from them. Can I send them to school during Alert Level 3?

- NO (sorry). We have been given clear guidelines by the Ministry. At level 3 we are endeavouring to limit the amount of social contact we have; keeping staff and students safe is our first priority.

### 6. I am struggling to get my child to do school work. I am stressing over it. What should I do?

- Don't panic! Your well-being and your families well-being is the number one priority. Get them to do what they can. Have fun, build memories, spend quality time together.
- Contact your classroom teachers for support and guidance.

### 7. I am a bit confused about how things work. Who can I talk to sort things out?

- In the first instance contact your child's teacher with your query or concern.
- You can access the latest information in our newsletters/Bulletins through the Skoop Loop App or on the school website. <https://hororata.ultranet.school.nz/NewsCentre/>
- If you still do not find what you need, contact the Principal [principal@hororata.school.nz](mailto:principal@hororata.school.nz).

### 8. So, can my kids come to school on Monday or not?

- YES, if you have no other options available to keep him/her home. If you need your child to attend school from Monday, part-time or full time, please contact Principal

## 10 Tips For Parents Teaching Young Children At Home

1) Play Schools, Don't Do School

6) Use Free Online Resources

2) Make And Display A Plan

7) Have Basic Resources At Home

3) Keep Lessons Simple And Short

8) Make The Most Of The Morning

4) Teach Things You Like And Allow For Passion Projects

9) Avoid Constant Multitasking

5) Embrace Board Games

10) Go Easy On Yourself