



Kia ora Koutou

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister, last night. I too, am disappointed we are back here again, however, it is paramount that we continue to be rigid with our hygiene processes and practise to ensure we are safe and our teaching and learning is only minimally disrupted. We have been advised by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education we will be in Alert Level 2 and will act accordingly for the next 3 days until we have further guidance that alert levels have changed.

The key Public Health approach 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.

You can be assured that in Alert Level 2 we will know who is at school, who our staff and students have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe. We have robust systems in place for tracking and tracing contacts.

Under Alert Level 2, we advise any students and staff to stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms. We have a strict plan to practise the 3'S as advised by the minister, separate, seated and sanitise.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. We do however know it is challenging in schools, so good hygiene practises 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.

### **What does this look like at Firth Primary School??**

Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site.

#### **We will:**

- Each child will have a designated seat (this may be at a table or on the carpet) and will be seated in the same space on a daily basis
- Each individual child will bring their own named drink bottle
- Each individual child will have their own learning tools, e.g pens, books, pencils, tote trays in their designated space
- Toileting times will be staggered with classes and cleaning of the toilets between the classes after use will be carried out
- Students will wash their hands and sanitise on entry and at various times throughout the day
- Classroom surfaces will be wiped regularly with sanitiser throughout the day with a thorough clean at the end of each day by our cleaner
- Playground will be restricted to a maximum of 20 students at any given time and will be sprayed at the end of each day

- Sports equipment will be shared only class groupings
- Break times will be staggered in class groupings
- Bikes will only be available for lunchtime use and will be sprayed after lunch, gloves are provided for those students who choose to wear them
- Masks and gloves will be provided for those students and staff who wish to wear these
- Students will continued to be dropped off from the front gate and escorted to their classrooms by teachers
- There will be no access to our site for parents and/or visitors. Students will be picked up from the carpark footpath
- If buses are running our students will be provided with a mask to wear to and from school and sanitiser on and off the bus

It's important however that not just at school, but at home, safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone. This is essential to minimise the risk that someone gets infected with Covid-19. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone". We all just need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2!

If you have any questions about our health and safety plan, or have a child who might be vulnerable to serious illness and would like to discuss a plan for them, please contact me.

We will be in touch again soon to update you on our plans.

Ngā mihi

Michelle Ryan  
Principal