

Bayview Primary School

Bayview Rd Glenfield

Auckland 0629

Phone: 09 444 2222

Email: office@bayview.school.nz



8 May 2020

Kia ora Team Bayview

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister and health officials in the past few days.

It is reassuring to hear how well our country has done at minimising the impacts of COVID-19. Alert Levels 4 and 3 have not been easy and I thank you for your ongoing support for the work we are doing.

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

The good news is that when we are able to, we will be ready to welcome all students and staff back to our school site. We recognise that the earliest this could happen will be Monday 18th May, but we are waiting to hear the announcement on this coming Monday, 11th May.

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.

As we have done in Alert Level 3, 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.

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, hand sanitising, and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. As described by Dr Payinda in his [NZ Herald article](#), "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". We all just need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2!

It's important however that not just at school but at home, safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone, as this is essential to minimise the risk that someone gets infected with Covid-19. This is the perfect time to reinforce hygiene messages with your children i.e. washing their hands frequently, not touching their faces, maintaining a safe distance from those who are not in their immediate bubble, etc.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

We are currently working hard on ensuring all our practices and procedures are in place for a move to Alert Level 2. I can assure you that for every decision we make we put the health and safety of the children first. This will mean that things will be a little different from pre-lockdown.

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

Ngā mihi nui

Di 😊

Diane Raynes
Principal