

TE AROHA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kia ora Koutou

I wish to bring the following important information to the attention of our community regarding Covid -19 as things are changing at a rapid pace in our country which could impact on our community in the days and weeks ahead.

Covid 19 - Level 2 Announcement

At 12 noon on Saturday, the Prime Minister outlined the Covid-19 Alert Levels. There are 4 different levels that can be set at either a regional or national level.

Nationally, we are at Level 2.

Level 2 means the following new restrictions have been put in place, **effective immediately**.

The list of people who are at risk is the following:

1. Immune-compromised

Those who are immune compromised need to immediately self-isolate.

2. Over 70

Older people often have underlying health issues, including respiratory issues that make them more vulnerable to this virus. This group of people also need to stay home and self-isolate.

3. People with medical conditions

Underlying medical conditions can make you more vulnerable to this virus.

In particular, people with respiratory conditions, such as COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), heart conditions, high blood pressure, kidney problems and diabetes.

4. People undergoing a treatment for cancer and blood conditions

As treatments for cancer and blood conditions effect people's immune systems, this makes them more vulnerable to COVID-19.

5. Pregnant women

Health experts do not yet know if pregnant women are impacted by COVID-19 in the same way as other people. However, pregnant women experience changes in their bodies that may increase their risk from some infections.

6. Residents of aged care facilities

Aged care facilities are susceptible to rapid transmission of viruses like this. Residents are more susceptible to illnesses due to their age and they are also more likely to have underlying health conditions.

7. Migrant and refugee community

Migrant and refugee communities are more likely to have underlying health conditions and language barriers to healthcare, which may make them more vulnerable to the effects of this virus.

The Ministry of Health is now recommending anyone who fits the criteria of those most at risk, is advised to stay home.

Schools will remain open but this will affect how some of our classes function.

This will affect staff members at our school who might need to stay home which will impact on our daily programmes.

We are currently working through what it means to be at level 2 for our school for Monday morning. If we have to move to level 3 this will be advised by the Ministry of Health and we will communicate this to our parents and whanau immediately via our school App, your child's See Saw portfolio and through our Facebook page.

If you do intend to self-isolate or temporarily withdraw your child/ren from school for the foreseeable future, it is important that you advise the school through the usual absentee channels giving the reason (phone/email/ App) **before Monday morning** to help us with our planning over the next few days.

UPDATED CONTACT DETAILS

It is very important that we have updated information regarding mobile phone numbers and current email addresses for all families. If your contact details have changed, please provide this to the school as a matter of urgency. If you are uncertain if you have provided us with changed contact details, please also contact the school to check with us.

This is a continually changing landscape and this information provided could change again later today or by tomorrow. We will endeavour to keep you up to date as soon as information is provided to us.

This is a time for us to work together as a community and to remain calm during this time of uncertainty.

Please feel free to contact the school if you are uncertain about anything.

Ngaa mihi nui

Kevin Johnson

Principal/Tumuaki

New Zealand COVID-19 Alert Levels



- These alert levels specify the public health and social measures to be taken.
- The measures may be updated on the basis of (i) new scientific knowledge about COVID-19 and (ii) information about the effectiveness of intervention measures in New Zealand and elsewhere.
- The alert levels may be applied at a town, city, territorial local authority, regional or national level.
- Different parts of the country may be at different alert levels. We can move up and down alert levels.
- In general, the alert levels are cumulative, e.g. Level 1 is a base-level response. Always prepare for the next level.
- At all levels, health services, emergency services, utilities and goods transport, and other essential services, operations and staff, are expected to remain up and running. Employers in those sectors must continue to meet their health and safety obligations.

LEVEL	RISK ASSESSMENT	RANGE OF MEASURES (can be applied locally or nationally)
Level 4 - Eliminate Likely that disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained and intensive transmission • Widespread outbreaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People instructed to stay at home • Educational facilities closed • Businesses closed except for essential services (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics) and lifeline utilities • Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities • Travel severely limited • Major reprioritisation of healthcare services
Level 3 - Restrict Heightened risk that disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community transmission occurring OR • Multiple clusters break out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel in areas with clusters or community transmission limited • Affected educational facilities closed • Mass gatherings cancelled • Public venues closed (e.g. libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, amusement parks) • Alternative ways of working required and some non-essential businesses should close • Non face-to-face primary care consultations • Non acute (elective) services and procedures in hospitals deferred and healthcare staff reprioritised
Level 2 - Reduce Disease is contained, but risks of community transmission growing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk of importing COVID-19 OR • Increase in imported cases OR • Increase in household transmission OR • Single or isolated cluster outbreak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry border measures maximised • Further restrictions on mass gatherings • Physical distancing on public transport (e.g. leave the seat next to you empty if you can) • Limit non-essential travel around New Zealand • Employers start alternative ways of working if possible (e.g. remote working, shift-based working, physical distancing within the workplace, staggering meal breaks, flexible leave arrangements) • Business continuity plans activated • High-risk people advised to remain at home (e.g. those over 70 or those with other existing medical conditions)
Level 1 - Prepare Disease is contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heightened risk of importing COVID-19 OR • Sporadic imported cases OR • Isolated household transmission associated with imported cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border entry measures to minimise risk of importing COVID-19 cases applied • Contact tracing • Stringent self-isolation and quarantine • Intensive testing for COVID-19 • Physical distancing encouraged • Mass gatherings over 500 cancelled • Stay home if you're sick, report flu-like symptoms • Wash and dry hands, cough into elbow, don't touch your face