

Banks Avenue School



Principal Update - Alert Level 2

15 February 2021

Kia ora koutou

Last night the Government announced that we will move into Alert Level 2 today, 15 February. This is for at least three days; it may be extended. At Alert Level 2, school is OPEN for instruction.

The two key public health principles we are focusing on at Level 2 are:

1. Reducing the risk of someone getting infected in the first place
 - a. Focusing on hygiene throughout the day.
 - i. Frequent sanitising of hands.
 - ii. Coughing into elbows.
 - b. Insisting all sick students or staff stay home; this will include minor complaints like coughs or sore throats. If in doubt get tested.
 - c. Maintaining some social distancing.
 - i. No assemblies or team hui.
 - ii. No gatherings of more than 100 people.

At Level 2, physical distancing in schools means students and staff maintaining enough distance so they are not breathing on or touching each other. *If you can smell or feel someone's breath you are too close.*

 - d. Ensuring surfaces are regularly wiped down during the day.
 - e. Asking that children bring their own drink bottles each day. The drinking fountains will not be in use this week. If we drop back to Level 1 next week we will be able to use our fountains again.
 - f. Our school playgrounds will open at Level 2 and school sports continue, however, risks from these actions will be mitigated by hand hygiene. We are waiting to hear from the Rawhiti Sports organisers to see if Friday sport will be on this week.
 - g. **Masks:** The updated guidance is that when there is community transmission, masks can help reduce the spread of Covid-19 however masks are not required at schools and early learning services at Alert Levels 2 and 3.
2. Ensuring we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected.

While we are at Level 2 we ask parents to drop off / pick up children from the gate; before and after school. Socially distance while waiting at the gate.

If your child is in rooms 1, 2, 9 or 10 (new entrant classes and year 1 / 2 classes, through the gated area) you may come onto the grounds and wait on the other side of our swing fence. Please socially distance!

We acknowledge that in some situations it will be important for parents to come onto the school grounds, e.g., if your children are in different areas of the school and cannot cope with meeting you at the gate. To enable these parents and whānau to come onsite to drop off and pick up your children during Level 2 we will be activating YELLOW Level 2 Passes to make this access and process easier. Alternatively if it is a one off and you come into school you must sign in and out at the office. *See more details on Level 2 passes below.*

Attendance

We know some parents may not feel comfortable sending their children to school at Alert Level 2. If you are going to keep your child / children away for the next three days, we ask that you email the office to let us know this. Please email: office@banksave.school.nz or phone [385 4163](tel:3854163). Once you have notified us of your intention we will remove your child from our Level 2 roll and we will not contact you while they are absent. There is no distance learning offered by the school at Alert Level 2.

We need to be notified of any other daily absences.

After School Programmes

After school programmes continue at Level 2. Please check with your child care provider to check that this is the case.

Change of Circumstance

Having up to date contact details is really important to us as a school. If your phone number, email address or home address has changed please email office@banksave.school.nz to give us your new details.

Preparing for Alert Level 3

We need to consider the possibility that we may end up moving to Alert Level 3 as Auckland has done. If this were to happen then school would only be open for those children of essential workers. In 2020 when we moved to Alert Level 3 we had twenty children in this category.

So we can be prepared with adequate staffing, I am asking you to complete the form at the bottom of this notice to let us know if your child would be attending at Alert Level 3 (that is you are an essential worker and no other child care is available). There is no need to complete this form if your child would not be attending at Alert Level 3.

If we were to move to Alert Level 3 then our distance learning options would begin again.

In Summary

- At Alert Level 2 school is open for all pupils, however, it will not be business as usual.
- **Sick children must stay home.** We will be very proactive in sending home children who show any sign of being unwell.

Symptoms to monitor for are any respiratory symptoms such as a cold, a head cold, blocked ears, cough, sneezing, chills and a fever. Anyone with those symptoms should stay home and contact your doctor or **Healthline 0800 358 5453** for advice, which may include getting tested for COVID-19.

- If you are keeping your child / children at home during Alert Level 2, email the office to let us know - office@banksave.school.nz
- No home learning option is provided at Alert Level 2.
- Parents are asked not to come onto school grounds unless it is important. We have reactivated our Level 2 Pass so use these if you are onsite otherwise parents on the school grounds must report to the office to complete our contact tracing procedure. Also remember to scan the covid tracing app if you enter the grounds.
- Drop your child off at a gate in the morning and wait outside the school grounds at pick up time.
- If your child /children will be attending school, should we move to Alert Level 3, please complete the form below.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please email me so we can endeavour to address them. Email: principal@banksave.school.nz

Toni Burnside
Principal

Level 2 Pass Guidelines

As this is a new year we are issuing new YELLOW Alert Level 2 passes. This will ensure all the information you have given us to get a pass is up to date. Show your yellow passes to staff at the gate as you enter our grounds.

Complete the form below to get a yellow Alert Level 2 pass. You can also complete the form for a Level 2 pass [online](#).

The information we gather through our *Level 2 pass* procedure will become our Contact Tracing Register Information so it is really important that the information requested is correct and accurate.

If there is any change to the pick up drop off routine you have outlined on your form, you must email office@banksave.school and let us know. This information will be added to your contact tracing register form.