



Hinds School Newsletter

Email: office@hinds.school.nz or principal@hinds.school.nz
School Bank Account Number: 12-3271-0207701-00

12th May 2020 - Week 5 of Term 2

COVID-19 Update

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Level 2 enables us to return to school next Monday 18th May. We acknowledge the work parents and students have undertaken during the Covid-19 lockdown with online and home learning. This time will become a special time in our children's memories in many years to come.

As a staff we have been reviewing what has gone well for our students online and at home and how we many incorporate those successes back at school, so going forward we will be trialling some new strategies at school to best support our learners.

Given the unusual circumstance we have experienced we will be undertaking a transition back to school interview where the teachers will be requesting a time to catch up with parents and students to capture learning at home. We will be holding transition interviews this Friday 15th all day and Monday 18th May in the afternoon, these can be in person or online, whatever works best for families.

During this time teachers will capture learning at home and discuss some learning goals going forward. This interview will form the basis of your mid year report, teachers and students will add to this information during the term and the report will be sent home at the end of the term.

There are a few differing practices that will be put in place with Covid Level 2 planning to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone. These are outlined below. We are advised by the Ministry of Education via the Ministry of Health of guidelines and as you appreciate these guidelines can change. We have had time at school to trial level 3 social distancing and hygiene practices, so have had a test run. We are pleased social distancing within the school has been eased as it is near impossible to maintain.

If you have any concerns please contact myself on vicki@hinds.school.nz.

From Monday 18th buses will be running, physical distancing is not possible on the bus - the seats around the bus drivers will be left free. Hand sanitiser will be provided for students to use on the journey and increased cleaning and sanitation practices will be made after each trip.

Technology will start for Year 7 and 8 again on Friday. All health and sanitation practices will be fully implemented at the centre as well.

Hinds School Covid-19 Level 2 Response

Purpose: To be used as a reference guide to enable contact tracing, good hygiene and cleaning practice, and appropriate social distancing during level 2. Staff will meet before we move into level 2 with students to ensure they have a clear understanding of practices and routines we need to follow to comply with Ministry of Health and Ministry of education requirements.

The following is sourced from the Ministry of Health:

The two key public health principles that support our approach at Alert Level 2 are first 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 or early learning centre is infected.

The key principles for Alert Level 2 are to:

- reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place
- ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected
- understand that Level 2 is not business as usual.

For education, the key public health measures announced for Alert Level 2 are:

- **enabling good hygiene practices** – regular washing and drying of hands and good cough and sneeze etiquette remain fundamental to preventing spread of illness such as colds, flu and COVID-19
- **ensuring people with COVID-19 symptoms stay away** from school
- **maintaining physical distancing where practicable** - in schools at Alert Level 2 this means children, young people, and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other (there is no minimum distance requirement for schools at Alert Level 2, People will no longer need to stick to their bubbles and can meet with friends and family).
- **keeping track of people that enter your school** – through your attendance register, timetable and visitor register. Schools will collect information about who's there, so Public Health can contact people quickly if they need to.

Breakdown of advice at level 2:

- Where possible physical distancing is a good precaution. We do, however, know it is near impossible in an early learning environment and challenging in schools.
- Good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are important including regular cleaning of equipment and commonly touched surfaces. .
- Playground, sports equipment use and sports, including contact sports, can resume at Level 2 under certain conditions.
- 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 recommended.
- School transport services will also return to normal schedules. The ongoing safety of drivers and students and the ability to contact trace will be a priority at Alert Level 2.
- Focus will be on the transition back to school. The Ministry has acknowledged that it may take time for children and some staff to reconnect and relax and that this will be different for everyone. Wellbeing will need to be addressed before learning will happen.
- No drinking fountains
- Technology centres resume at Level 2 and specialist / external providers are able to attend your school

Any children, young people and staff should stay at home if they are sick, or will be sent home immediately if they show any symptoms of sickness, eg runny nose, sore throat, sore head etc.

It is very important to note that all parents who enter the school grounds need to complete our school visitor register. Therefore there can be no popping into a classroom , dropping off lunch boxes etc. At the end of the school day when collecting your children we ask that all parents wait outside the gate or just inside the gate in the tree area practicing social distancing of 2metres and the staff will send your children to you.

Mass gatherings , this applies to children and school staff at school not parents – 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

Please watch this video with your children and discuss the practices the school will need to use when going into level 2 - 'moist breath ' and keeping our distance back at school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZvtoVrykb8&fbclid=IwAR2koX6bg4m1UyjdEfeEiX5CuvBbThoh9XWiuD9euaEfcnopZTSngtQRCHg>

We look forward to seeing you all next Monday - hopefully COVID-19 cases throughout the country will continue to reduce and we can begin to get back to normal.

Kind regards

Vicki McIntyre
Principal - Hinds School