

Returning to School in L2

Matauranga ō te Ngakau - Education with a Heart



Pigeon Mountain School
Education with a Heart

Frequently asked questions about the return to school at Alert Level 2.

Level 2 Information for Parents and Caregivers

Public Health Statement for the Education Sector (May 2020);

'We have carefully looked at the evidence around COVID-19 and educational settings, and at the experience of other countries in responding to COVID-19 in these settings to inform the public health advice to the education sector in planning for a move to Level 2.

Our experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 over the last four months shows that it does not infect or affect children and teens in the same way it does adults.

So children and teens have low infection rates, they don't become that unwell if they do get infected, and they don't tend to pass the virus on to adults.'

Dr Caroline McElroy
Director, Public Health, Ministry of Health

The two key public health principles for schools are:

- to reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place
 - Pigeon Mountain School will work on physical distancing and good hygiene alongside increased sanitizer, disinfectants and wipes in class.
- to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected
 - Pigeon Mountain School will use a contact tracing register for any visitors, including parents and caregivers on site.
 - Pigeon Mountain School will reduce visitors to the site as this will be the most likely area transmission can occur.

As a result of these principles this document contains some frequently asked questions from our community.



Please drop and collect your child from outside school to reduce the number of adults on our site.



Call ahead if you need to visit school (office or teacher) for any reason.



Keep children away from school if they are unwell in ANY way. Do not visit the school site if you are unwell.

When should I arrive at school?

You should not arrive at school before 8.30am when classrooms will open.

A bell at 8.45am indicates the start of school. All gates will be locked at 9am. Parents are asked to drop and collect from outside the school site, or to send children into school whilst remaining outside.

You should not arrive to collect your child before 2.45pm when gates will be reopened.

Parents outside the school site are asked to remain in cars or at 2m distances while waiting. Parents entering the school site will need to be registered on every visit, and they are asked to make their visit as short as possible. Only one adult per child will be permitted to enter the site each time.

Will there be before and after-school care during Level 2?

Yes, BizzyBodz will be operating both before and after school. As a private childcare provider, they have developed their own Level 2 operating practices which have been shared with parents ahead of the return.

Can parents and caregivers come on site at Level 2?

Yes- but only when this is absolutely essential.

Adults other than our staff members are discouraged from entering our site. Parents wishing to enter the site at drop off or pick up time MUST be registered- only one adult per child will be allowed on site. Registration points will be operating at Loloma Dr, Wells Rd, and BBI pathway entry points from 8.30am and 2.45pm each day. Registration will be completed with pen/paper or using a QR code and online form. Pigeon Mountain staff will be managing these stations, and sanitiser is present at each one. If parents need to come onsite at other times please call ahead. Physical distancing of 2 metres is expected for visiting adults when on site. All other visitors or contractors will need to report to the office to record their name, the time in and out of the school, and details of locations they have visited.

How will I communicate with my child's teacher?

Whilst we are in Level 2, we will not be able to provide the same face-to-face contact we were previously utilising for parent queries and questions. In all cases, please email your child's teacher or use another form of digital contact if you need to share any information or ask any questions.

What will happen to late students?

If you are late, ring our office 09 5349765 to inform school. After 9am, all entry points into school will be locked- so please use the Wells Rd entry point.

How will the school office operate?

Reception will remain locked in Level 2.

Please use digital communication wherever possible. When this is not possible (in the event of a sick or unwell child), the front office door will be the only access point with one person in the office at a time. All other doors will be locked. If waiting outside the office, please adhere to 2 metre distancing from others. The contact register for all visitors will be based in the office. Always ring ahead if you are visiting the office.

Are the drinking fountains used at Level 2?

Providing clean water is part of the school's overall health and safety responsibilities. Teachers and staff will be discouraging the use of water fountains and ask your child to bring personal water bottles. Signs will be placed on the fountains advising students to fill bottles and not to drink directly.

What will physical distancing look like at Level 2?

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. In an Alert Level 2 school environment, children and staff will maintain a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, coupled with good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. The first few weeks back at school will focus on empowering students to take control of their health and safety. This will be closely monitored by teachers. Lunch eating and morning tea will be in classrooms so the adults can ensure hand washing and hand sanitation is regularly happening. There will be extra emphasis on handwashing and drying (or cleansing with hand sanitiser) before and after activities and regular cleaning of equipment.

What happens if we get a case of COVID-19?

[Schools connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19](#) must close on an individual or group basis for 72 hours to allow contact tracing and cleaning. They could be closed for a further 14 days (but open for distance learning) – we will work with public health units to manage this and the direction to close will come from the Medical Officer of Health.

What does contact tracing look like?

Schools are required to have a contact tracing register. The contact register will provide good information to health authorities, so they can contact people that might be considered a close contact of a confirmed case, and determine whether they will need to self-isolate. This includes recording who the adults on-site are in close contact with students, as well as recording any visitors to the site, including parents and caregivers. Please ensure you complete a registration

Can families decide not to come to school?

School sites are deemed as safe and health and safety practices are robust. Therefore the expectation is that with the exception of some students who are sick, or those who are self-isolating because of a family member contracting COVID-19, all students will be attending at Alert Level 2. Parents and caregivers are asked to notify school with the DATE and TIME, to advise us if your child won't be attending school in person when Alert Level 2 commences. If you are absent for the day please notify school by 9.30am. These absences are explained but not justified.

Under Alert Level 2 all staff are back in the classroom. Therefore our distance learning programme will not operate from Monday 18th May.

Have term dates changed?

No. Pigeon Mountain Primary School term 2 closes on Thursday 2nd July as previously advertised. All other term dates are unchanged and can be found on the school website.

What if someone is sick at school?

From MoE Guidance:

People (students and staff) with COVID-19 symptoms or feel generally unwell have to stay home. Parents are asked to keep any sick children at home. If a sick child comes to school they will be sent home.

Staff will check students on arrival looking for symptoms and those presenting as unwell will be sent home.

Sick Bay- Children with injuries will be treated in the sick bay. Children presenting with COVID-19 symptoms will be housed in the sick-bay side-room, which has been designated as our isolation room. When we contact parents, we will provide instructions on where sick children should be collected from.

What will classroom programmes look like?

Setting up routines and good hygiene practices will be important in the first few weeks. All non-essential curriculum activities will cease. While the bubble concept covers the whole school (hence restricting adults on site), we are going to limit movement as much as possible. This means:

- No team or whole school assemblies or singing assemblies (these will be replaced by digital/remote equivalents)
- No food events
- No monitor duties or errands across classes or to the office (however, Crossing Patrol will still operate)

Children with devices are encouraged to bring them to school HOWEVER devices are likely to be used less than previously for the remainder of this term, since many students have been using them so much during lockdown.

Will students still have Music/PE on Mondays and Tuesdays?

Yes, under Level 2, specialist programmes can operate, and our teachers are allowed to work with different groups of students. The concept of bubbles is not part of Alert Level 2.

Can my child bring their own school equipment?

Yes, children wishing to bring writing/stationary for their own use are allowed to do so if they are able to take responsibility for it.

Will sports and inter-school events be taking place?

Most of our extra-curricular programmes have been postponed until at least Term 3. After-school additional classes (CNSST, STEAM, French etc) have also been postponed at least until Term 3.

Is the Uniform Shop operating?

We have no used uniform at present BUT we do have a supply of long pants for Terms 2 and 3. These can be purchased by ordering through the office. Online payments will be accepted, and orders will be delivered to your child's class the next day. John Russell Schoolwear is open during L2, operating a one-in, one-out system for their shop.

Will Student Achievement reports be affected by the lockdown?

Yes- significantly.

We are reviewing our reporting in light of the time away from school, and the written reports scheduled for Term 2 will be postponed. We will be considering the content of written reports, and will send progress reports in Term 3 to enable us to gain accurate assessments of students academic and social/emotional progress.

What will lunchtime /playtime look like?

Students will be outside and on the playground. We are fortunate to have plenty of space. Children must wash their hands before and after play. Morning Tea and Lunch Eating time will be in class in order to monitor hygiene. Students will be reminded of the distance guidelines and duty staff will be monitoring and enforcing these. At the moment, the canteen operator will NOT be opening so children will need to bring their own lunch. This may change in coming weeks.

School playgrounds are open during Level 2. Hygiene practices will be observed after using playgrounds or playtime equipment.

What if a child gets close to others or touches someone else's things?

This may happen at the beginning as children adjust to the new boundaries. Adults will remain calm and remind them of expectations during Alert Level 2 to keep them safe. The best prevention of spreading the virus is hygiene. Students must wash their hands immediately using water and soap for 20 secs and dry hands with paper towels thoroughly. Teachers will clean and disinfect quickly and calmly.

Will the Library be open?

The library will only operate for class visits- it will not be open before school, or during break times. Returned books which may have been taken home will be taken out of circulation for 72 hours before being returned. Classes will follow good hygiene before and after visits to the library.

Will ICAS still take place?

We are awaiting further information and guidance about ICAS in 2020.

What will happen in toilet breaks?

The outside door will be open, but the toilet door can be shut. The handles will be wiped regularly. Children MUST wash their hands after use. An adult may have to be present to ensure this happens.

How will school keep the classroom clean?

Hand sanitizers are placed at the point of entry and exit. Appropriate cleaning supplies (eg disinfectant and cloths) will be available for cleaning high-touch surfaces during the school day and teachers will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as door handles. Cleaners are cleaning the school daily and sanitising with products which have a residual effect on viruses and bacteria.

Do we need masks?

No. PPE is not required or recommended as necessary in any educational facility by the Public Health Service. **However, if you or your child would like to wear a mask you are able to do so.**

Standard hygiene measures are also really important including:

- Hand sanitisers are placed at entry and exit points to classrooms.
- Soap, water and the ability to dry hands will be in bathrooms. Children and staff will regularly wash and dry hands, and we will renew our reminders to students to cough and sneeze into their elbow, and try to avoid touching faces.

Public Health officials have advised that if these measures are in place, then personal protective equipment is not needed.