



# TAUPO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



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Kia ora parents and caregivers

We have been busy getting prepared for Alert level 2 and are very excited to welcome our students back to school on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. We have some protocols in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff, please read this letter carefully and share this information with your child.

### **The emphasis for level 2 is improved hygiene practices and contact tracing.**

- Students and staff must stay home if they are sick.
- In the morning students are asked not to be on site until 8.20 at the earliest, they need to go straight to their classroom, where they will be greeted by their teacher and need to wash their hands, on entry.
- Students must wash their hands before entering and exiting the classroom
- All visitors to the school must sign in and out at the office – we would prefer emails or phone calls if possible.
- Visitors are asked to follow the instructions on the signs at the front office when coming into the school
- Parents need to meet their children offsite when picking them up or dropping them off.
- 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)
- We have installed new air hand driers in the bathrooms along with soap dispensers.
- We have installed paper towel dispensers in all classrooms which students need to use responsibly.
- All classrooms also have sanitizer and soap. We recommend your child brings a small personal sanitizer too.
- Continue to teach students good cough and sneeze etiquette – this is fundamental to preventing spread of illness such as colds, flu, and COVID-19
- Regular cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces e.g. classroom door handles, desks etc. will be undertaken by our School Cleaners and Caretaker every day.

### **Buses are operating with these measures:**

- Transport providers will have up-to-date bus lists at all times to ensure everyone knows who is being transported daily for the purpose of contact tracing.
- In the mornings bus drivers will take a roll of students' details getting on the bus from when they get on their first bus, if and when they change buses, they do not need to have their names recorded again. Then each day the bus driver will mark the roll. We will use our school lists for afternoon bus rides.
- Students must catch the same the bus including the same connection buses every day. Students are not permitted to change bus routes for any reason unless they notify the school prior.
- No other students are allowed to use the bus service for social events.
- Transport operators will maintain up-to-date information on special assistance (SESTA) students they are transporting each day.
- Hand sanitisers will be available for each student to use as they board the vehicle.
- Vehicles and surfaces will be sanitised after each journey by the transport company.
- Seats in close proximity to the driver will be left empty.

### **Students returning to school.**

As directed by the Ministry of Education our school is open and our task is to reintroduce students to their classrooms and curriculum and also to reunite with their teachers.

**Our main focus will be to:**

- Staff our school with sufficient teachers including the employment of relief teachers where necessary
- Provide face to face curriculum programmes
- To implement and monitor health and safety protocols
- Manage the workload of each of our staff, so therefore we **will not** be providing online learning for students choosing to stay at home.

One reason we would provide online learning is if a child is forced to self-isolate because they have been in contact with a potential covid-19 case. In this case you will need to contact the school.

**Please remember to ring the school 07 378 8097 or email [office@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:office@taupointermediate.co.nz) or report any absences on the School App.**

**The Tuck-shop will be open from Monday with strict hygiene practices enforced.**

**Information on physical distancing in schools at Level 2 from the Ministry of Education:**

Physical distancing remains important, particularly when people are interacting with people they don't know and who couldn't be easily traced. However, the risks are relatively lower at Alert Level 2, and it's now safe for individuals to be physically close to their good friends and family.

A school environment is controlled, you know who is at school, who they have been in close contact with and have good hygiene measures in place including regularly washing hands, including before and after using shared equipment. People who are sick are staying at home and you are monitoring for anyone presenting with signs of illness and are cleaning high-touch surfaces daily.

So, for physical distancing in schools, it means children, young people, and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other. You literally get some breathing space.

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".

So, in a school setting, if you can smell the person's breath or feel that you are in that "moist breath" zone, move a little further away.

Avoid touching others and for adults, it is recommended that where practicable you keep a metre distance between you.

**We will continue to review our practices as we move forward in alert level 2. We are looking forward to seeing all the students on Monday. Again, we thank our parents and teachers again for all their support during this difficult time.**

**Nga mihi nui**

**Senior Leadership Team**  
*William Clarke - Principal*

*Megan Simpson – DP*

*Baz Haydon – DP*

*Kerri Robinson – AP*