



Dear Parents

Like me you will most likely be surprised and disappointed that most of New Zealand has needed to go into Level 2 restrictions as announced by the Prime Minister this evening. Public health advice is that schools, early learning services and tertiary institutions are safe to open onsite at Alert Level 2 to all learners. People do not need to return to bubbles at Alert Level 2 and can meet with friends and family. But people need to play it safe and continue to take sensible health and safety precautions.

This email is a reminder of what Level 2 means for us and what precautions we need to take. I expect further information will be provided tomorrow. Please be aware that this situation can change quickly and as such guidelines and expectations may change during the day. All of our decisions, while based upon the latest guidelines from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, are about keeping children, staff and parents as safe as possible.

The key public health approaches under Alert Level 2 are:

- Minimise the risk that someone gets infected.
- Ensure we can identify and contact anyone if someone is infected.

We will implement our Level 2 plan for the next 3 days. This has a strong focus on playing it safe. We will review this plan on Wednesday, when I expect to hear more from the Ministry of Education about next steps for the remainder of this and next week.

Hygiene and Cleaning

- Hand Washing protocols come back into effect for eating. That is children to wash/dry and sanitise hands:
 - After playing outside/before and after eating.
 - Any other time deemed necessary
- Additional disinfectant and cloths will be provided to classrooms to sanitise spaces throughout the school day as required.
- Cleaners will complete daily cleans in line with the Ministry of Health guidelines.

Sick Children or Staff

- Students and staff are not to attend school if they are unwell.
- Students and staff who become unwell during the school day will be sent home.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is a critical component during Alert Level 2.

- Children – Attendance registers fulfill this requirement.
- Parents – Use the NZ COVID Tracer App. QR Codes are available on buildings closest to our two entrances.
- Buildings – we would prefer parents do not enter any classrooms or buildings, including the office during Level 2. Please call (03 348 7492) or email with any queries.

When on site please remember physical distancing and stay at least 2 metres from other parents, staff and students. If you wish to talk to your child's teacher, we request that you communicate by email at first instance.

Please advise us ASAP on (03 348 7492) if at any stage you think you, or any member of your family may have, or may have been exposed to someone, with COVID-19.

What school will look like for children.

Arrival – School starts at 8:55am

- Children can play before school starts - 8:30-8:55am
- Road Patrol on Ilam Road will be operated as per normal.

Classrooms & Teaching Programmes

- Children seated far enough away from each other so that they are not breathing on (moist breath zone) or touching each other.
- Outside music, maths, science and writing tutors will continue to work with individuals and small groups.

Playground

- Break and lunchtime to remain as normal.
- As they have been all term, drinking fountains will remain turned off. Students will continue to need a named drink bottle at school. These can be filled in classrooms.
- Children will eat, supervised by their teacher, in their classrooms.

Movement In and Out of school

We are limiting all non-essential curriculum activity both in and outside of school.

- School/Team assemblies/gatherings are postponed until further notice.
- No large school gatherings involving parent spectators.
- No class trips or excursions outside of the school.

Leaving – School finishes at 3:00pm

- We ask that children DO NOT play at school after 3:00pm.
- Our Road Patrol on Ilam Road will operate as per normal between 3:00 and 3:15pm.
- Ilam OSCAR will operate as per normal.

Start of Year Learning Conferences - 24 & 25 February

A decision regarding these will be made this coming Friday, 19 February.

If your children cannot attend school at Level 2 for health reasons, please contact us via email (admin@ilam.school.nz)

I will update you as soon as new information comes to hand.

Kia kaha, kia māia (Be strong, be brave)

Paul Dolan
Principal