



AMISFIELD SCHOOL
"Together We Achieve"

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12/08/2020

Kia ora Koutou,

As some of you may have seen last night or heard this morning, we are returning to COVID-19 Alert Level 2 at midday today.

At Amisfield School we will again take a common sense approach to the move into COVID-19 Alert Level 2. Our focus will be on keeping our learners physically safe and making sure that they feel school is a safe place to be by keeping things as normal as possible.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. As distancing is challenging in schools, good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are very important here. This includes staff and students coughing into their elbows; washing, drying and sanitising hands; and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

It's important that safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone, at home as well as at school, as this is essential to minimise the risk of someone becoming infected with Covid-19. We advise all students and staff to stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms of illness under Alert Level 2.

Our school will have safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. 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". We all just need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2!

The updated advice from the Ministry of Health is that the use of masks is recommended in the community. In school it is fine for your child to wear a face mask or other PPE if they wish.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

We remain hopeful that Alert Level 2 will be a short-term action taken to halt any potential spread of COVID-19 into other areas of New Zealand. If this is the case then when we return to school on Monday we will be back to 'normal'.

If you have any questions about our health and safety plan, or have a child who might be vulnerable to serious illness and would like to discuss a plan for them, please contact me.

On a final note, we know that this announcement will be having an effect on our community and on our loved ones. So please, be kind, look out for each other and your children.

Ngā mihi nui,
Gareth Gilmour
Principal | Tumuaki