

12th August 2020

Covid-19 Update – School Resuming Alert Level 2

Dear parents and whānau

Following last night's announcement from the Prime Minister, we are back at Alert Level 2. Russley School will continue its normal school operation - Alert Level 2 is all about being safe and sensible. There is a fair amount of detail in today's notice, so please take the time to read this carefully.

The overall situation for schools

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.

Signs of unwellness

If your child is showing any signs of being unwell, it is imperative that they be kept at home. Likewise, if we see signs of unwellness at school, parents will be asked to come and collect their child. Please make good decisions regarding sending your child to school if they are showing any symptoms of being unwell like coughing, sneezing, runny nose etc.

Health and safety

There are a number of continuing health and safety messages you can reinforce with your children:

- Sneezing/coughing into elbows
- Avoid touching faces/eyes/nose
- Avoid physical touching, including when playing with other students during break times
- Wash and dry hands properly - soap, 20 sec. wash, dry
- Sanitise before going outside, sanitise when coming back in

Class teachers will be constantly reinforcing these messages with all students.

Contact tracing for parents

We need to know fully who is onsite during alert level 2. Therefore, we will have two contact tracing stations set up at school; one at the old admin. Foyer entrance (for those entering through the front gate), the other at the portacom building by the new Hall (for those entering via the back gate). Any parents who come into the school grounds past these points will be required to register their details each time for contact tracing purposes. All adults must remain outside school buildings if they do need to enter the grounds.

Students may go straight to class when they arrive at school

To avoid any frustration on this matter, parents should avoid coming into school unless it is critical. We would encourage parents to make contact with the school person they need to, in advance, and

in a non-physical manner through email or phone so we can minimise adult contact on the school grounds. It is **every** adult's responsibility to keep our children safe. Parents should not go to a classroom and should maintain physical distancing still, as the public health requirements demand.

Office hours

The school office will operate normal hours, with some differences. There will be a one-in/one-out process. Visitors to the office will need to wait outside, a suitable distance from others until the office is available.

Contactless options for the office still exist. Contactless payments can be made by internet banking, and enquiries made by phone 342 7783, by text to 0279 161718 or by email to reception@russley.school.nz.

Lunch ordering service

eZlunch <https://www.ezlunch.co.nz/> lunch orders will continue at Russley School, Tuesdays to Fridays, for now.

School gatherings

At level 2 gatherings are restricted to 100 people, so school gatherings such as whānau time and school assemblies will not take place. Kowhai Awards will still take place for the students only, but spectators will not be permitted. The awards will be recorded for families to view.

School Sport

We are awaiting further updates from Primary Sports Canterbury regarding any upcoming sporting events.

Moana Camp

Team Moana will be returning today as planned, but further information and timeframes will be available shortly as information comes through.

We expect further information from the DHB and MoE during the day, and we will keep our community updated as we receive information

The Russley School community coped wonderfully during the previous Level 2 restrictions, due to our combined efforts. We have robust systems and clear protocols in place to keep everyone safe.

Ngā mihi

Jane Rush
Kaitiriwā Tumuaki | Deputy Principal