

There is such a sense of relief as we move into Alert Level 2 around the country today, and we are so looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday. The key principles for Alert Level 2 are to reduce the risk of infection, ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected, and understand that Level 2 is not business as usual (although it's getting much closer!).

To that end we are asking parents to drop their children off between 8.30am and 9.00am at the Kiss and Go Zone, or at the gate entrance nearest to their classrooms rather than coming into the school grounds. If you must come into the school grounds, you need to first go via the office to sign in, collect and wear a name tag. I have detailed additional points later in this update, but if you have any questions or worries about your children starting school again, please feel free to email me at principal@leeston.school.nz or ring me at school.

A huge thank you to you all for your patience, your understanding and for the amazing work you have all done supporting your children's learning from home throughout the lock-down period. I am so looking forward to being back on crossing duty come Monday and seeing you all again.

Nga mhi
Lynda Taylor
Tumuaki

Return to School

We want to reassure you that our school is a safe place for your child to be and safe for our staff too. It has been thoroughly cleaned and we have high hygiene practices as a key part of our everyday activities. Staying home if sick, physical distancing, good hand hygiene, not touching your face, good cough/sneeze etiquette and regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces minimises any potential spread of the virus. Our school's health and safety system is all set up to ensure this happens.

We have hand sanitiser in classrooms and lots of reminders to students and staff to undertake good hygiene practices such as good cough and sneeze etiquette and washing hands frequently.

So to summarise....:

- **If your child is unwell, they must stay at home.** This includes having a runny nose, sore throat or coughing and sneezing. If they become unwell during the school day, they will need to be picked up immediately from the office.
- Between 8.30am and 9.00am drop off children at the Kiss and Go Zone, or at the gate entrance nearest to their classrooms. Arrange to pick them up in the same spot.
- You **MUST** sign in at the office before coming into the school grounds for our contact tracing register. Sanitise your hands, keep your distance from others as per floor markings, sign in using the Vis-tab machine and wear your nametag.
- Keep your distance from others (at least 1 metre) at all times while on the school site.
- All children will be required to hand sanitise their hands on entry and exit from rooms.
- Ensure children have their own NAMED drink bottle, lunch and normal belongings. Our drinking fountains will remain closed during Alert Level 2.
- Children will be required to be back in their correct school uniform wearing their safety vests to and from school.
- Return any medications taken home before lockdown to your class teacher.

- Scooters and/or bikes with helmets can be brought to school as usual.
- Avoid coming to the office if you can – rather email or phone enquires through to Megan.
- Buses will be running as usual – children will be required to hand sanitise on entry and exit.
- If our school has a probable or confirmed case, the school will close for 72 hours to allow for contact tracing and cleaning, followed by remaining closed for up to 14 days if a case is confirmed.

Just to remind you also that COVID-19 is not an illness that impacts heavily on children and young people. An article by Dr Gary Payinda in the [NZ Herald](#) highlights this:

- The young are less likely to get infected, less likely to get seriously ill, and less likely to spread the infection to others.
- When kids are affected, the illness is almost always mild. Luckily, unlike flu or many other infectious diseases, children with Covid are not super-spreaders.
- 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.
- Make hand hygiene a habit - more than being scared of runners passing by, touching groceries, or standing in queues at the supermarket, we should be afraid of our own hands.