

5th March 2021

Government announcement - Auckland will move to Alert Level 2

Tēna Koutou Katoa,

This afternoon our Prime Minister announced that we will move to Alert Level 2 at 6.00am Sunday 7th March until further notice. **Our School will reopen on Monday 8th March.**

At Alert Level 2 schools are open and safe to attend. All staff will be onsite. The school will be following the Ministry of Education Guidelines and protocols at Alert Level 2.

While onsite at Alert Level 2, we must adhere to key health measures including:

- Good hand hygiene and cough / sneeze etiquette
- Staying away if sick
- Keeping the appropriate physical distance from others (in class this means no touching each other and keeping out of breathing distance)
- Cleaning and disinfecting our high touch surfaces daily
- Displaying QR code posters at our entrances and encouraging all of our community to download the NZ COVID Tracer App and use it if they come onsite.
- Keeping a visitor register for anyone who cannot use the app

We would prefer if students are dropped at the gates to minimise adults on-site.

If adults need to come onsite, they must use the QR code or the school register to sign in. Please ensure you turn on your phone's bluetooth function.

It is important that if children are showing any signs of being unwell they must remain at home. Please look at FAQ's attached for further clarification. If you are on-site we would like to minimise the number of adults that enter classrooms, so we would advise parents to drop off students outside the classroom without entering.

We know all these things will help to keep our community as safe as possible. Because of these measures, your child does not need to wear a face covering while at school. We will of course support them should they choose to do so.

If you have any worries about your health or the health of your family, please call Healthline on 0800 358 5453 or visit www.COVID-19.govt.nz

Please remember that school will be closed this Friday March 12th for Teacher Only Day staff will be engaged with Kathryn Berkett Professional Learning Development- Trauma informed training and practices

Ngā mihi
Raj Dullabh - Principal



Conifer Grove School Community: Commonly Asked Questions

The advice and recommendations from the Ministry of Health are that from Monday 8th March, it is safe for schools to open. Students will be able to return as long as they remain well and follow safe hygiene practices.

What are Conifer Grove School's protocols regarding physical distancing?

We follow the Ministry of Health's recommendations for physical distancing in schools. While there is no minimum distance required for schools at Alert Level 2, students and staff will maintain a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other. Where possible and practical, a distance of 1 metre will be kept. There will be no large gatherings like assemblies, team assemblies, and no external sporting events at this stage.

How will drop off and pick up times work?

We recommend that students are dropped off and picked up from outside the school gates. If needed, parents and caregivers are allowed to come on to the school grounds to pick up and drop off students. Any parents and caregivers who do come onsite will need to sign in and out on a visitors register or the QR code. There will be a sign in register outside both the Evanda Crescent entrance, as well as the entrance from the Evanda Link. Sign out registers will be inside the gates.

While parents/caregivers are onsite, there will need to be a physical distance of 2 metres from people other than their child/ren. Under the guidelines that we have been given, parents who are unwell and have any of the following symptoms are asked to stay off site (any of the following; runny nose, sneezing, coughing, high temperature, shortness of breath, sore throat).

Can I come onsite to go to the office or to speak with a class teacher?

If you need to speak with someone in the office, we ask that you ring first. If you do need to come onsite, we will make a mutually convenient time. If you need to contact a class teacher, please email them in the first instance. Email addresses of class teachers can be found on the school website at: <https://www.conifergrove.school.nz/staff/>.

Has Monday 8 March been confirmed as the day children will return to school?

Yes - as a country we move into Alert Level 2 at 6am on Sunday 7th March. Schools will reopen for students on Monday 8 March.

Will it be compulsory to send my child/ren to school at Alert Level 2 or can I keep them home? Is it legal to keep my child/children home during Alert Level 2?

The Ministry of Education guidelines recommend that students attend school unless they fall into the vulnerable category or if they are self-isolating. Students who are in these categories will continue with online learning from home.

If my child/ren does not come to school during Alert Level 2, will the school continue to provide online learning?

The Ministry of Education has stated that students that are unable to return to school (for reasons such as self-isolating or medical professionals have classified them in the high-risk medical category) will remain at home and receive online learning. We are awaiting clarification from the Ministry of Education on whether online learning will be provided for families who choose not to send their child/ren.

**How will Conifer Grove School be implementing the Alert Level 2 Ministry of Health guidelines?
What are the current practices, safety measures and precautions in place at Conifer Grove School in relation to COVID-19?**

We have implemented the Ministry of Health recommendations and will continue to do so. These include...

- Maintaining physical distancing where possible
- Encouraging personal hygiene (such as sneezing and coughing to elbows or a tissue)
- Regularly washing and drying hands
- Encouraging physical distancing where possible. The Ministry of Health's advice for schools is to avoid, where possible, being in the 'moist breath zone' of others.
- Cleaning common areas and shared materials regularly (such as door handles, tabletops).
- All classes and common areas will have tissues and hand sanitisers.
- The school will maintain a register of staff, students and community members that come into the school grounds. This is a Ministry requirement so that students, staff and community members can be contacted by public health if there is a probable or confirmed case.
- Additionally, all classrooms and surfaces will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day.
- Any students, staff or parents/caregivers will be required to stay home if they are sick and will be sent home immediately if they show any symptoms (sneezing, coughing, runny nose, head cold, high temperature, sore throat).
- All drinking fountains will remain closed.

How can I prepare my child/children to return to school under Alert Level 2?

It would be helpful if all students know about personal hygiene (how to sneeze/cough into their elbow, wash and dry their hands) as well as recognising the importance of physical distancing with other students and the teacher. These messages will be reinforced at school.

Will my child/ren be in their normal classroom with their normal teacher and class when they return to school?

Where possible students will return to school with their normal teacher and classmates. There may be some staff members who are still not able to work onsite under Alert Level 2 meaning that there will be a different staff member. We will communicate this with parents from any of these classes as soon as we can.

What will happen if my child/ren are unwell?

If your child/ren is unwell, they need to remain at home. The guidelines that the school has been given is that no staff member, student or parent/caregiver should be onsite if they have any of the following symptoms...

- Cough
- High temperature
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Sneezing
- Runny nose

If your child/ren is at school and has any of these symptoms, you will be called and asked to collect them.