



St Mark's

Coronavirus Update - 15.02.21

Dear Parent and Caregivers

Following on from the Prime Minister's announcement last night of the community transmission in Auckland of COVID 19 and the Auckland regions move to Alert Level 3 and the move to Alert Level 2 for the rest of New Zealand from midnight last night.

I would like to reassure our families and staff that St Mark's is well prepared to move to this Alert Level 2 or higher if we were asked to do so by the Government. We have excellent communication with the Ministry of Education who are in constant contact with us, and all schools, around the COVID situation.

With a return to Alert Level 2 there are a number of safety precautions I would like to remind all of our St Mark's family to follow so as to protect the wellbeing of everyone in our community. The following are some measures we need your help with please to reinforce these messages and to ensure your child is aware of these precautions:

- Do not share your things with others e.g. food, electronic devices or stationery
- Please do not bring sports equipment, toys and games from home
Wash your hands before and after touching school playground equipment, musical instruments or sports gear
- Washing your hands regularly and before eating food. Staff will provide reminders to children as well
- Please bring a named full water bottle, as our water fountains will be off-limits to all children

- Staff will clean their classrooms with disinfectant during the day followed up by a daily clean by our school cleaners
- Playground equipment and PE equipment will be cleaned thoroughly and regularly
- Masks are not required at schools and early learning services at Alert Levels 2 and 3
- To assist with hygiene in classroom spaces we will provide wipes in each class so the children can wipe down their own possessions and desk area during the day. Children can also bring their own wipes from home if they wish to have their own supply
- There are clear and strict guidelines for the dropping off and collecting of students. We encourage primary school parents and caregivers to drop children at the bottom of Driveway 1 each day. We will be keeping a visitors register for all parents and caregivers coming on to the preschool and school site. Parents can pick up children at the end of the day in the normal way but, after signing in, will be asked to wait in the Birdcage and to keep 2 metre physical distances between all adults. If parents and caregivers need to physically come into the school buildings at any time you must first record your entry at Reception. All non-essential visits or visitors will not be allowed to enter St Mark's. If a parent/caregiver is not sure about visiting school or preschool then I invite you to call Reception prior to coming to St Mark's to check before entering the grounds
- Normal attendance/absence procedures will apply under Level 2. If your child is absent due to illness or other reasons, please continue to inform us by emailing, calling the school absence line on 04 890 3955 or by filling out the absence link in the St Mark's School App. We ask for parents support if your child is feeling unwell, in any way, even with a mild cold or sore throat. It is important that they stay home and you should also contact your GP or Healthline to arrange a COVID 19 test immediately
- The St Mark's buses continue to run as normal under Level 2. Bus companies will be applying physical distancing on their buses and there may be reduced passenger capacity on some routes. We will contact families who are bus users later this week with further information and updates.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the [COVID19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz) website.

There will be other communications from the School and Preschool over the next few days, so please keep an eye out for emails and school app messages from St Mark's re updates on potential changes to school and classroom activities.

Our pastoral care of all children and families is paramount to the Board and staff. If your child is feeling anxious around, or unsettled by, the changes at school please let your classroom teacher know and we will be able to provide the necessary support. Further, families are also invited and encouraged to reach out to us at any time where we will assist with counseling with our Chaplain, Rev Digby Wilkinson. All contacts made will be held in the strictest confidence. Please email Deputy Principal Mrs Erica Harvison at erica.harvison@st-marks.school.nz should you like to make an appointment with our Chaplain.

Moving to Level 2 again can feel like a setback. However, with our communities' vigilance around health measures, our love and support of one another and by staying safe, positive and kind, I believe we will move forward to prevent COVID from spreading further.

I thank families for their ongoing support around COVID and this latest development.

Kia Kaha - We are St Mark's!

Kind regards

Kent Favel | Principal

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