



St Mark's

Coronavirus Update - 23.06.21

Kia ora koutou

The Minister of Health announced at 1.00pm today that we will all move to Alert Level 2 in the Wellington Region from 6.00pm tonight until 11.59pm Sunday, due to a Sydney man travelling to Wellington over the weekend while being infected with the Covid-19 Delta variant.

I would like to reassure all our St Mark's families that we are 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 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. These will assist us in protecting 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
- Wash 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 closed and off-limits to all children
- 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
- Staff will clean their classrooms with disinfectant during the day and this will be followed up by a daily clean by our school cleaners

- 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
- 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
- There are clear and strict guidelines for the dropping off and collecting of children. We encourage primary school parents and caregivers to drop children at the bottom of Driveway 1 each day. If you come on site, you must scan in on the COVID Tracer App which can be found at all entry points to school, or sign in at reception or with a staff member at the gate. 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 scanning or signing in, will be asked to wait in the Birdcage and to keep a 2 metre physical distance 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 parent 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 website](https://www.covid19.govt.nz).

There may 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. This afternoon's St Mark's Comms email that will arrive in your inbox at 4.00pm will have changes to planned school events. Also in St Mark's Comms are our SMCS Level 2 Poster Guidelines to assist families in Preschool and the Primary School. I encourage you to print this off and place it somewhere for your easy referral at home.

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 counselling with our Chaplain, **Rev Dr 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 is disappointing and will affect all families in different ways. However, with our community's vigilance around health measures, our love and support of one another and by staying safe, positive and kind, I believe that when we go to Alert Level 1 on Monday morning that we will be staying at this level for a long time to come.

I again thank all our St Mark's families for their ongoing support around COVID and this latest development.

Kia Kaha - We are St Mark's!

Nga mihi nui

Kent Favel | Principal

St Mark's School | Make Your Mark Everyday