



St Mark's

Coronavirus Update - 07.09.21

Kia ora koutou

The Ministry of Education shared with us this afternoon Alert Level 2 Requirements and Recommendations which I will outline below.

I would like to reassure all our St Mark's families that we are well-prepared to move to this 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, eg 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. However if you would like to wear a mask, you are able to make this decision on an individual basis.
- 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. You must now use this tracer app rather than signing in with a staff member.

- We will be keeping a visitors register for all parents and caregivers coming on to the Preschool site.
- Parents can pick up children at the end of the day in the normal way but, after scanning, 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. There is no directive for students to wear masks on our private buses or the dedicated public bus services.

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 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.

Tomorrow's Comms@St Mark's email that will arrive in your inbox at 4pm will have changes to planned school events. You will also find 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.

Family Support

A reminder that if any families require support in anyway, please reach out to your classroom teacher, our Deputy Principal, **Mrs Erica Harvison:** erica.harvison@st-marks.school.nz or our School Chaplain, **Rev Dr Digby Wilkinson:** digby.wilkinson@gmail.com or myself. We are here for all our families.

I again thank all our St Mark's families for their ongoing support around COVID and this latest Alert Level 2. We are looking forward to seeing children and families this Thursday for the Daily K at 8.20am! We can't wait to see you all!

Kia Kaha - We are St Mark's!

Ngā mihi nui

Kent Favel | Principal

St Mark's School | Make Your Mark Every Day