

# Bruce McLaren Intermediate School

## Principal Update: 7 May 2020

Kia ora koutou katoa

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister.

It is reassuring to hear how well our country has done at minimising the impacts of COVID-19. Alert Levels 4 and 3 have not been easy and I thank you for your ongoing support for the work we are doing.

Today, the Prime Minister advised that in Alert Level 2 schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff.

**The good news is that when we are able to, in Alert Level 2, we will be ready to welcome all students and staff back to our school site.**

Yes, we can be together again! Our school, back to onsite learning. Our school, back to being 'one'! OUR BMIS WHANAU – having fun (while learning)!

**Schools will be open to all students and year levels at Alert Level 2 from the beginning of the next school week after the announcement is made.**

With the disbanding of bubbles, the school has additional public health control measures in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing. We have more sanitizer than you can imagine as well as gloves, wipes, soap, paper towels and Perspex screening.

As we have done in Alert Level 3, you can be assured that in Alert Level 2 we will know who is at school, who our staff and students have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. We do know this is challenging in schools, so good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here. This includes staff and students coughing into their elbows, washing and drying hands as well as regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Under Alert Level 2, we advise any students and staff to stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms.

Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. As described by Dr Payinda in his NZ Herald article, "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". We all just need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2!

It's important however that not just at school but at home, safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone, as this is essential to minimise the risk that someone gets infected with Covid-19.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

**School buses will be operating.** The school office MUST know if you wish to have your child use this service, as a pick up and drop off contact tracing schedule is required by Ritchies.

**Should your child walk to and from school,** we wish to stress that it is a parental responsibility to ensure their safety. The staff cannot supervise your child's movements or behaviour away from the school.

If your child has been issued with a school chromebook, this is returned on the day your child returns to school. If a MOE chromebook makes its way to you, accept it and let the school know immediately so that we can save you stress and return it to the right place for you.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the school office at 8363175 or email [admin@brucemclaren.school.nz](mailto:admin@brucemclaren.school.nz)

We will be in touch again soon to update you on our plans.

Alert Level 3 is still in operation – so stay safe, stay warm, stay at home!

Kia kaha, kia toa, kia manawanui.

WE'VE GOT THIS!

Ngā mihi

Liz Wood - Principal