

Friday 5th March 2021

March COVID
Alert Level 2 return



Dear Parents / Whanau o Te Atatu Intermediate kura,

Tena koutou katoa to you all, I hope that this letter finds you all well, especially after a very strange day of earthquakes, Tsunami alerts and general life at level 3.

With the announcement this afternoon of the downgrade to Alert Level 2 from Sunday 7th March from 6am, **Te Atatu Intermediate School will reopen on Monday 8th March for all students and staff.**

In an email to all Principals, *The Secretary of Education states that;*
At Alert Level 2 schools are open and everyone should be attending. The exceptions are anyone who is:

- Unwell.
- Self-isolating (at the request of health authorities).
- Waiting for COVID test results (but only if advised by health authorities that they can't return to school until the test result comes back).

Obviously, level 2 comes with some restrictions around our gathering numbers, though as a school, we effectively become our own bubble.

We will be consistent with our approach to the return to school at level 2 each time.

Therefore, the following safety aspects will be put in place every time we come back to school from level 2 including;

- ***We will move to a 9am start time (all students to be at school by 8.55am) though at 8.40am – students need to go to class. This eliminates the whole school / syndicate gatherings that would normally be at this time.***
- ***At the end of the day, we will move to staggered finish times depending on syndicates. This just means that our three syndicates will finish at either 2.50 / 2.55 or 3pm to avoid congestion at the gate. Please parents, at level 2, do not come into school if you can help it.***
- ***Between 9am and 2.50pm - we will get back into everyday class routines following the usual timetable. Students will need to be prepared with their normal books/PE gear etc for each day.***
- ***We will be encouraging social distancing as much as possible. Outside of the 'breath zone' in class and trying to maintain 2m outside of class -all classes have disinfectant, wipes and hand sanitiser. Students will need to use good hand hygiene and sanitise hands on entry/leaving the classroom.***
- ***Students will only use the one designated Chromebook assigned for them.***

Could all Chromebooks that were issued during the lockdown phase, please be returned to Mr Andrews in Workshop 2 on Monday 8th March in the morning from 8.30-9am.

These devices have come from classes and we will require them for student learning.

At level 2, this means gatherings with a limit of 100, so we will have no assemblies, TAI TV or singing assemblies until we are back at level 1.

Masks - although these are not mandatory for students/staff within school, we will be allowing people to wear a mask if they wish during the school day.

Bus students catching the public 131 bus should really have a mask - even though the cut off age is 12 years it would pay for them to have one.

Our school tuck shop can reopen. The vendors have their own Health & Safety rules around food handling and students will need to make sure they socially distance within the wait line outside the tuck shop.

Drinking fountains are not to be used for drinking from the mouth, only for refilling bottles, so please can students bring a filled water bottle each day to school with them.

The wellbeing of your child is our top priority and we will do all we can to make sure that all students stay safe whilst operating within Level 2 regulations.

Once again, we had to postpone the Linewize (Family Zone) / Music information evening. We will let you know when this re reschedule will be (This can only take place once we are back at level 1).

We look forward to seeing all our students back at school, we have missed them all - school just isn't the same without the staff and students!

Thank you for your support during the lockdown period, this has been much appreciated.

Enjoy your weekend.

Nga mihi nui,

Lloyd Evans
Principal
Te Atatu Intermediate