



# St. Peter's Catholic School

Quality Education in a Christian Community

8 May 2020

Kia Ora Koutou

## LEVEL 2 UPDATE

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 and that additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.

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

The key Public Health approach is to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected.

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 however know it 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, handwashing and drying and 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 safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone at home as well as at school, 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/>

***At this point in time, we are expecting all children to be returning to school so we will not be sending you yet another survey. However, if you are going to choose to keep your children at home for any reason, we ask that you email me directly asap.***

We will be asking that parents follow the Health and Safety guidelines in regards to people on-site, so we will share with you specific information about pick up and drops offs etc. closer to the opening of school.

If you have any questions about our health and safety plan, or schooling at level 2, please let me know directly [principal@stpeterscatholic.school.nz](mailto:principal@stpeterscatholic.school.nz)

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

Ngā mihi  
Grant Stuart  
**Principal**

