

Sunday 28 February 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Opaheke School

Principal: Sean Valvoi

Kia ora koutou,

Hopefully you will have seen and/or heard the Prime Minister's announcement last night in relation to confirmed community cases of Covid-19 in Auckland, once again resulting in Auckland returning to Alert Level 3 from 6AM THIS MORNING 28 FEBRUARY 2021. The Prime Minister has said that the move back to level 3 this morning was necessary because many people will have visited the same places as the two newly discovered community cases.

This decision was taken for two reasons – first it is not immediately clear how the latest person to test positive got infected and second, that person has visited several large sites while potentially infectious and it will take some time to identify and track down what could be a large number of people.

For all of our community, we need to keep ourselves, family and whānau safe. It's important we follow the rules.

If you aren't sure if you have been to a place where someone with COVID has visited – please go to the [Ministry of Health website for the 'Locations of Interest'](#). Check the date and time of each location listed in the table and if you were there at the same time, go to the right column on the right to see what you need to do.

COVID-19 symptoms can vary a lot with each person, so while we are familiar with the following symptoms:

- a new or worsening cough
- fever (at least 38°C)
- shortness of breath
- a sore throat
- sneezing and runny nose
- temporary loss of smell.

Some people may present with less typical symptoms such as only one of the following:

- muscle pain
- fever
- diarrhoea
- headache
- nausea/vomiting
- confusion/irritability.

If you or your whānau experience any of these symptoms, please contact your GP or Healthline (0800 358 5453) for advice and get tested if advised to do so.

Ph: 09 298 5410

Email: [office@opaheke.school.nz](mailto:office@opaheke.school.nz)

Tasman Drive, Papakura 2113

[www.opaheke.school.nz](http://www.opaheke.school.nz)

Although this is highly disappointing, it will be a simple repeat of what the school did with the last level 3 lockdown on 14 February. This time, however, it will be for at least the next 5 days of school, beginning tomorrow.

I have met with the senior leadership team this morning preparing for online learning and we are also preparing a small pool of teachers who will be able to welcome to school, all children of essential workers who are required to work tomorrow.

#### CHILDREN OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS

You will recall that Alert Level 3 requires people to stay home / work from home unless they are essential workers. If you are an essential worker and are required to work and there is not an appropriate adult to look after your child(ren) then your child(ren) may come to school. Use the flow chart (see next page) to help you determine this.

As with the last time at Alert level 3 children attending school will be part of a school bubble which will be supervised by a teacher who may not be their class teacher or a teacher at their year level. Please follow the following entry and exit details:

- Entry to the school is only through the school office.
- No entry on site by parents (aside from the office, which will be 1 in and 1 out)
- Students should be dropped off between 8am and 8.25am
- Students to bring their own water bottle as the drinking fountains will not be operating
- Pick up between 2.20pm and 2.30pm by the main gate. Please adhere to these times.
- Hand sanitiser will be in the office as students enter the school and near the door of the classroom
- Maintain distancing throughout entry and exit.

Please ensure your child brings their device (if they have one) to school as they will be learning online in the same way they would if they were learning online at home.

#### DEVICES FOR OUR FAMILIES

We are preparing these for our families and expect the first batch to be available tomorrow. We have our request list that we are working through and our office staff will be in touch to arrange a pick a time to reduce congestion at the office. If you wish to add your family to this list, please reach out to your child's class teacher. Please be aware that at this stage we can only offer one device per family.

#### ONLINE LEARNING BEGINS TOMORROW

Teachers will have online learning available later tomorrow morning. Please keep in mind that many of our teachers are also managing their own children and other dependents. There may be short delays in returning your message, but we will endeavour to get back to you as quickly as we can.

We will be in touch with further information tomorrow regarding learning at home. We hope your family is well. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any other questions.  
[office@opaheke.school.nz](mailto:office@opaheke.school.nz)

Stay safe and be kind to one another.

Nga Mihi

Sean Valvoi

## CAN I SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL AT ALERT LEVEL 3?

