



*A community growing successful learners*

28 August 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We are very busy at school today making sure that we are ready for the return of our children on Monday. This newsletter is to remind you of health and safety procedures that will be in place.

1. Please endeavour to drop your child off at the school gate. If you need to enter the school site, please make sure you scan the COVID-19 QR Code or sign the register. We would also appreciate it if any adults who enter the grounds, wear a mask. No parents are to enter the classrooms and must stop at the yellow lines marked outside each room. There is one exception to this, and that is if it is your child's first day in a New Entrant class or your child is having their preschool visit.
2. You may drop off and pick up your child in the school carpark near the office. This is a drop off and pick up zone only. **Please do not park in the staff carparks.**
3. Your child may wear a face mask to school if they wish and will be supported to do so.
4. All children will need to bring their own water bottle as the fountains cannot be used. These can be filled up during the day from the classroom taps.
5. **All devices that were borrowed from the school must be returned to school on Monday.** These can be dropped off at the library from 8.30am.

### **Returning to school**

Everyday your child attends school matters because it:

- increases their ability to achieve
- provides an important emotional and support network for them, with their friends and classmates
- keeps them engaged in learning
- gives them direct contact with their teachers
- is an environment where the focus is on their safety, wellbeing and learning
- helps them feel more comfortable transitioning throughout their schooling journey
- is not just now but their future that counts.

We are aware that some families may be reluctant to have their children attend school, even at Alert Level 2.

The following key messages explain why it is safe for your children to return to school.

### **Children and COVID-19**

While children can get COVID-19 and can transmit the virus to other people, health authorities have noted that their experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 shows that it does not infect or affect children and teens in the same way it does adults.

Compared to other places, schools and early learning services are not environments where we have seen significant spread of COVID-19. Household members and work colleagues who are in close contact with people with COVID-19 are the most common routes for transmission.

Children and teens don't become as unwell if they do get infected, and they don't tend to pass the virus on so much as adults in the classroom setting.

## Key health measures to prevent spread

- Our school has very good processes in place to continue to keep your child as safe as possible.
- However there is still some risk of community transmission at Alert Level 2, so we all need to follow our good practices to keep ourselves, family and whānau safe including:
  - Washing your hands regularly with soap and water including before and after eating, after blowing your nose, after visiting a public space including public transport, before, during and after caring for a sick or vulnerable person, after using the toilet etc.
  - Coughing and sneezing into your elbow.
  - Staying at home if you are sick and checking with your GP or Healthline to see if you need to get tested (a reminder that Healthline is free to call - 0800 611 116 and they have people who speak many different languages).
  - If you are recommended to get tested please do so – testing is free.
  - At home, clean your surfaces regularly particularly the ones that are often touched such as taps and door handles.
  - Keep a physical distance from people you don't know (2 metres wherever possible).
  - If you are in an enclosed space with people you don't know, such as on public transport, wear a face covering as they can help stop the spread of COVID-19 by limiting the spread of droplets.
  - A face covering is any material that covers your nose and mouth – such as a scarf, bandana, t-shirt or facemask.

## How COVID-19 can spread

- COVID-19 spreads from person to person via droplets. When an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, droplets containing the virus spread a short distance and can settle on surrounding surfaces.
- Because some people don't feel that unwell when they have COVID-19, they may not know they are contagious.
- All the good practices listed above help us to prevent getting infected if we do come into close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- If we do get cases in our community, the health authorities quickly follow up with everyone that person may have had close contact with.

Go to the [covid19.govt.nz website](https://www.covid19.govt.nz) for more information about face coverings.

There is also good information on the [Ministry of Education website for parents and carers](#).

Our Return to School Safety Plan has been posted on our website for your information. We look forward to seeing your child / children back at school on Monday.

Regards

Chris Cooper

Principal

Glenfield Primary School