

MENPS News

Te Whare Akoranga o Maungawhau, 21 April, 2020

Important - Level 3 Next Steps Parent Update

From The Principal

Kia ora koutou

Now the government have confirmed the move to Level 3, you may have many questions and will be considering the next steps. As you will know, the Prime Minister's announcement included the following information:

“The current plan is for schools to be able to re-open for a Teacher Only Day on 28 April as part of their preparation, and we expect those who need to attend, to be able to from 29 April. It may take a bit longer for some schools and early learning centres to be ready. So here's a reminder of the principles for Level 3 when we get there.

1. Stay home. If you are not at work, school, exercising or getting essentials, then you must be at home, the same as at Level 4.
2. Work and learn from home if you can. We still want the vast majority of people working from home, and children and young people learning from home. At-risk students and staff should also stay at home, and they will be supported to do so. Early learning centres and schools will physically be open for up to Year 10 for families that need them.”

- Prime Ministerial Statement, Monday, 20 April, 2020

So, what does this mean for you and your child?

The first thing to acknowledge is the ongoing work of teachers, staff, the children themselves and you as parents in rising to the new challenge of distance learning. This is not easy, and was never going to be, but I have been genuinely impressed by what has been achieved. It represents a significant disruption to all our lives, and we appreciate how difficult it is to balance this alongside other personal and professional commitments. We also need to be aware, however, that it is not over yet. Level 3 is far from a 'normal' situation, and we continue to operate in a highly restricted environment. For all of us, this involves continuing to make personal sacrifices and compromises for the collective good.

The key question as far as school goes is who can and should attend school from Wednesday next week. Put simply, *your child must continue to learn from home if there is at least one caregiver/responsible adult at home* (whether they are working from home or not). This is the clear intent of Level 3. To put it more bluntly, children can't be sent to school if you are working from home just because it is more convenient. Equally, you are under no obligation to send your child to school if you choose not to. The key points I would emphasise are as follows:

- **Your child should only be sent to school if no adult is at home to supervise them during the day, with no exceptions. Attendance is *voluntary*, but this is not the same thing as *optional***
- All children will continue with distance learning materials for the next 2 weeks, whether at school or at home. Staff will essentially be split into an on-site and an off-site team
- **Children who are immuno-compromised or who have an underlying health condition must not be sent to school at this time as per government direction**
- As usual, children who are unwell should not be sent to school, and we urge you to take a cautious approach if in doubt
- Those who genuinely need to attend school will be supervised by staff while working independently and at distance, without close contact (such as individual or group teaching)
- Children won't be permitted to randomly drop in and out of school on site. We are making staffing arrangements for the duration of the Level 3 period. If there are only certain days when you can't supervise your child due to part-time work away from home, however, we can make arrangements for this (please let us know using the form below)
- Children attending school will be re-combined in multi-age whanau group 'bubbles' of up to 10 children. **Siblings will be placed together in the same class where possible** to reduce mixing between family 'bubbles'
- Strict physical distancing and enhanced hygiene measure will be in place at all times at school, including playtimes
- There will be no mixing between whanau group classes for the duration of Level 3
- There will be no use of playgrounds or shared play equipment at any time
- Access to shared facilities, such as toilets, will be carefully organised and monitored
- The school office will be operational but physically closed
- Visitors will be restricted to essential personnel only, and parents will be required to drop their child at the gate
- There will be no before or after-school care available during level 3, so you will need to make alternative arrangements to ensure your child is dropped off no earlier than 8.15am, and picked up no later than 3.15pm

With many more parents likely to be resuming work, at least from home, we know this will be an ongoing challenge, and will be expanding the distance learning model in two key ways. First, we will be adding optional video conference times for children to check in 'live' with teachers (although this may not necessarily be their usual teacher given the split staffing, unfortunately, and may not be practical for our youngest learners). These times will be scheduled via Google Classroom, and will be an opportunity to touch base with peers and ask questions as needed.

In addition to this, moving forward, we will be aiming to arrange posting of Classroom materials on a Friday in future (although daily videos will continue to be Mon-Fri). This is to allow a little more flexibility in when and how working parents choose to support their child's learning.

Finally, I want to emphasise the point that this is the next in a series of temporary measures, and it is important to keep that in mind. We have 2 weeks to get through under the new arrangements, and so it is important that we all hold the line for our community and in the spirit of our civic duty. As much as we all want our lives as they were prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, making the difficult decisions now helps us get closer in the longer term, and will help us to build on the progress we have made as a country so far.

Please see the link below for a survey for all families to complete. This is crucial for us to know who will require their child to return to school and for staff organisation, so please make it a priority to complete this within the next 24 hours.

As ever, thank you for your continuing support and understanding. Rest assured, we are committed to ensuring that the health and wellbeing of all of our tamariki is our highest priority, and we will be taking all possible precautions during Level 3 on site.

Ka kite anō au i a koutou

Alan Jackson

Principal

Important - Please click on the link below to indicate if your child will require learning at school during Level

3

MENPS Level 3 School Staffing - Parent Survey

Sorry, this form is now closed. Please contact admin@mteden.school.nz if you need to get in touch. Thank you.

This form was created inside of Mt Eden Normal Primary School. [Report Abuse](#)

Google Forms

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forms.gle

Please note that we are requiring a commitment to on-site or off-site learning for the duration of Level 3, which is set to be reviewed on May 11. Children will not be able to come and go from classes, or just arrive at school unexpectedly.

If your circumstances change in the meantime, you will need to contact us to request adding your child to one of the existing whanau group classes we will be organising.



The Golden Rules for life at Alert Level 3

1. **Stay home.** If you are not at work, school, exercising or getting essentials then you must be at home, the same as at Alert Level 4.
2. **Work and learn from home if you can.** We still want the vast majority of people working from home, and children and young people learning from home. At-risk students and staff should also stay at home, and they will be supported to do so. Early learning centres and schools will physically be open for up to Year 10 for families that need them.
3. **Make your business COVID-19 safe.** COVID-19 has spread in workplaces, so the quid pro quo of being able to open is doing it in a way that doesn't spread the virus.
4. **Stay regional.** You can exercise at parks or beaches within your region, but the closer to home the better. Activities must be safe – keep 2 metres away from anybody not in your bubble. Make minimal trips.
5. **Keep your bubble as small as possible.** If you need to, you can expand your bubble a small amount to bring in close family, isolated people or caregivers.
6. **Wash your hands often with soap. Then dry them.** Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
7. **If you are sick, stay at home and quickly seek advice from your GP or Healthline about getting a test.** There is no stigma to COVID-19. We will only be successful if everyone is willing to play their part in finding it wherever it is.

Businesses can use the week ahead to prepare for Alert Level 3. Any preparation should be done in line with Alert Level 4 restrictions.

Contact Us

 [Staff | Mt Eden Normal Primary ...](#)

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Meet the MENPS team



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