



20 August 2021

Kia ora koutou

Like me you probably looked at the emerging cases from this outbreak and thought that some further time at Alert Level 4 was the best thing for our community. That thinking was confirmed today when the Prime Minister advised that we will remain at Alert Level 4 until 11.59pm on 24 August. We will learn more on Monday about what will happen next.

I wanted to reassure you that our school staff and board will continue to be available to support your child's learning and wellbeing in the coming days.

Clearance has now been given for school personnel to go onsite to arrange distribution of hard materials and/or devices. Unlike previous lockdowns, we are not permitted to allow for the collection of devices and hard copy packs; instead these are to be delivered to you by school staff.

To streamline this process, I will be sending out a digital form over the weekend, to collect information regarding who needs what, and where it needs to be delivered to. Given we are in Alert Level 4, delivery will be restricted to Wattle Downs and there are strict protocols staff who are completing the deliveries, must follow.

On Monday a skeleton staff will begin to prepare the packs and devices, and develop a delivery plan. Deliveries will hopefully start on Tuesday. At this stage we don't know how long the process will take, so please bear with us if you don't receive your pack and/or device on Tuesday,

Please note that teachers will be continuing to deliver programmes as they have been in previous days/lockdowns. The hard copy packs are not a requirement for your children to complete, but we do know that they are appreciated by many families,

especially if the adults in the house are needing to work from home. I'd also like to reiterate that we understand that learning may not be a priority for you and your family at this time.

We also hope you are doing OK at the moment – but it is also OK if you aren't. As the [Mental Health Foundation of NZ says](#), "it's all right to feel a range of emotions right now. Going into a Level 4 lockdown is a big deal and it brings all sorts of different feelings to the surface, including frustration, worry and even gratitude. However you are feeling, know that you're not alone – we're all going through this together."

If you need to talk, check in with a friend or whānau member, or free call/text 1737 to chat with a trained counsellor. It's free and confidential. There are also [a lot of other supports available to you, your whānau and your community](#) if needed. You will also understand the importance of routine for your family. If your routine has been shaken up, it's good to structure your time. Routines are reassuring and promote health and physical wellbeing.

For our Pacific families, if you are not aware, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' has been working to ensure useful information is [available to Pacific peoples in nine different languages](#).

A big thank you to all of you for taking the lockdown so seriously – we've seen before that staying at home will break the chain of transmission and save lives. Breaking the rules could risk someone close to you and if the rules are not complied with, this could risk the lock down period being extended or could risk the virus being spread to thousands. Please [keep checking the locations of interest](#) and get tested if you were at that location at the specified time, or if you have symptoms which could be COVID-19.

And just a quick point – please don't use our playground, turf or fields during lockdown. The school is closed to everyone but school staff preparing resources at Alert Level 4.
Ngā mihi

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