



24 August 2021

Kia ora koutou

We hope this newsletter finds you and everyone in your bubble well. For those of you who are working with the public in essential services, we cannot thank you enough. The Prime Minister announced yesterday that Auckland will be remaining at Alert Level 4 until at least Tuesday 31st August. This means that Glenfield Intermediate will continue to deliver our Distance Learning programme for students.

Extra support for families

To help supplement the learning that is being provided by our teachers, the Ministry of Education are also providing resources to assist with Learning at Home. Resources are online for your whānau to access via the [Learning From Home](#) and [Ki te Ao Marama](#) websites. [Papa Kāinga \(TVNZ\)](#) and [Māori TV On Demand](#) educational channels are also available now.

Online Safety and appropriate use of devices

We would like to reiterate the importance of keeping all children safe online while they continue to learn from home. Network for Learning's (N4L) Switch on Safety Service is available free to support online learning on devices used to undertake learning from home. Instructions for the specific device a child uses can be accessed directly at www.switchonsafety.co.nz.

Online safety can't be provided by technology alone – it requires a holistic approach. Please discuss this with your children and remind them of the expectations. If students do breach the 'appropriate online expectations' the classroom teacher will contact parents to discuss this. For tips and advice to support online safety conversations can be found on the Netsafe website. www.netsafe.org.nz

Thank you

A big thank you for taking the lockdown seriously and doing what we have been asked – we've seen before that staying at home will break the chain of transmission and save lives. It is even more important that we all follow the health advice because the Delta variant is very contagious. Breaking the rules risks the health of those close to you, the wider community and could result in the lockdown period being extended.

Please remember that all school playgrounds and school grounds remain closed at Alert Level 4, as do public playgrounds.

There is some additional general information regarding the pandemic outbreak and response below.

As always, please let us know if there is anything you need to support you and your tamariki during this time.

Together, we will get through this.

Ngā mihi

Mark Whitford
Principal

Leanne Somerville Smith
Deputy Principal

Sarah Stevenson
Assistant Principal



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

You may be wondering how, with so many contacts being identified of confirmed cases, we aren't seeing bigger case numbers identified. Just like the Delta variant is different, so has been New Zealand's response. Previously we might have moved to Alert Level 2 or 3 if there was a new COVID-19 case in the community (which happened most recently in Wellington). This time we moved immediately to Alert Level 4, after only one case had been identified.

Health authorities are also casting a much wider net to determine who is a contact of a confirmed case. People who previously might have been considered a casual contact are now being treated as contacts. Where schools may have closed for three days while contact tracing was undertaken, they are now closing for 14 days with staff and students all self-isolating for that time. As a result, there are more than 13,000 close contacts being followed up by health authorities.

There is a lot we can all do to protect our whānau and community from COVID-19 including:

- Everyone must continue to stay home in their bubble
- Do not mix with other household bubbles – if they have COVID-19, it can easily spread to your household, and every other household they and you are connecting with
- As new cases are identified, [new locations of interest are added to the Ministry of Health website](#) – please keep checking this. You can search by your location and they are sorted by date, so you only need to check the locations which have been added when you last checked
- Wash your hands regularly, especially when you have been out in public
- Stay home if you are feeling unwell and seek advice about whether you need to get a test
- Wear a face covering when out and about, and you MUST wear a face covering in any businesses or services which are open at Alert Level 4 (unless you have specifically been exempted from doing so, which includes anyone aged under 12)
- Keep a two-metre distance from people outside your household bubble
- Check in using the [NZ COVID Tracer App](#) wherever you go or keep a manual record (a reminder the App only stores information on your own phone – no one else will know who it is that checked in)

You can go to the [COVID19.govt.nz website if you would like more information on Alert Level 4 requirements](#).

We can also make sure we are passing on good information. There is a very helpful article by [Dr Siouxsie Wiles and Toby Morris in The Spinoff](#) regarding misinformation and disinformation. Their red flags for how to spot bad information are particularly well-summarised. Bad information will:

- downplay COVID-19 and the pandemic
- focus on survival rate
- ignore long COVID
- emphasise individual freedom
- try to sell you something
- push simple cures/treatments
- make you feel fearful or angry.
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“Good information put out to help you make an informed choice won't make you feel scared or angry. It'll make you feel empowered.”

Finally, we know some families in our community may be finding it difficult to access food and essential items such as medicine. This information about [how to access food or essential items](#) summarises the supports that are available, including financial help to buy food.