

Monday 4th May, 2020

Kia ora e te whānau,

Thank you for adhering to the guidelines of Alert Level 3. Every single one of you has an **ESSENTIAL ROLE** in eliminating COVID-19. We care about you all so deeply and want to encourage you to keep Deanwell's people safe and well by staying home and keeping your bubbles small.



We want to provide some reassurance that Deanwell school is a safe place for your child to be and safe for our employees too. We look forward to more students returning in Alert Level 2. We have closely followed the [public health measures](#) that have been put in place for Alert Level 3. This means our employees and students are staying 1 metre apart inside and 2 metres outside, our cleaning programme fully aligns with Health guidance, only essential visitors are coming into school and we have systems in place similar to supermarkets and dairies, to prevent those people from congregating.

We have two bubbles operating on the school site. This includes 'Mirumiru Tari - Office Bubble' and 'Mirumiru Tuatahi - 1st Bubble'. A total of 7 employees and less than 10 students. **School hours are 8.45am - 3.00pm**

To ensure our people are safe and healthy we expect the following: if you are sick stay home, keep physical distance, apply good hand hygiene, avoid touching your face and have good cough/sneeze etiquette. At school we have implemented a number of hygiene measures to ensure our environment is clean. This includes; regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces, having additional cleaning at lunchtime by our fabulous cleaners from OCS, sufficient supply of hand sanitiser in each classroom and office areas and organising placement of furniture in classrooms to enforce appropriate physical distancing of students and teachers. Our health and safety systems will ensure that our school and entire community stay safe.

The Ministry of Education wants to reassure our Whānau by providing this information.

REMINDER FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION...

COVID-19 is not an illness that impacts heavily on children and young people. An article by Dr Gary Payinda in the [NZ Herald](#) highlights this:

- The young are less likely to get infected, less likely to get seriously ill, and less likely to spread the infection to others.
- When kids are affected, the illness is almost always mild. Luckily, unlike flu or many other infectious diseases, children with Covid are not super-spreaders.
- Covid's not measles or chickenpox; it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone.
- Make hand hygiene a habit - more than being scared of runners passing by, touching groceries, or standing in queues at the supermarket, we should be afraid of our own hands.

Please email your child's/children's classroom teacher if you have any questions, including questions about our health and safety management for our tamariki, employees and visitors coming onsite.

Kia manawanui, kia manaaki, kia haumaru!

Pam