

Patricia Avenue School

Alert Level 1 Summary

There is an extremely low public health risk from the virus at Alert Level 1. With the exception of border controls including testing and quarantine/isolation for new arrivals, Alert Level 1 sees a return to life as we knew it pre-COVID-19. All current restrictions on businesses and services are lifted.

Although New Zealand has made great progress in containing COVID-19, there is still a global pandemic that is expected to continue into 2021 or even longer. It is important we remain vigilant and continue to practice good hygiene to minimise the risk of any community transmission.

There are no specific public health requirements for schools and early learning services at Alert Level 1. The Health and Safety at Work Act continues to apply and all schools and early learning services should adhere to the [golden rules](#).

There are no restrictions on personal movement at Alert Level 1 so all students, children and staff continue to be safe to go to school / early learning, and all students must attend school.

Schools and early learning services are encouraged to support contact tracing efforts by displaying QR Code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App.

Upon advice from the local medical officer of health, any educational facilities connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 must close on an individual or group basis for 72 hours to allow contact tracing, and then potentially for a further 14 days.

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If people are sick, they should stay home (phone Healthline or their GP and get tested if they have flu-like symptoms). If you undergo a COVID test you must remain at home until you are cleared.

Wash and dry hands, cough into elbow, don't touch your face. Continue to follow good hand hygiene and support students with these routines.

[Schools connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19](#) must close on an individual or group basis for 72 hours to allow contact tracing and cleaning. They could be closed for a further 14 days (but open for distance learning) – you will work with public health units to manage this and the direction to close will come from the Medical Officer of Health.

Stringent self-isolation of those who display relevant symptoms of COVID-19, test positive for COVID-19, have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, or have been overseas in the last 14 days – [Ministry of Health information for self-isolation](#).

There are no restrictions on personal movement at Alert Level 1 - all children should attend school and are able to engage with host schools, other satellites and base school sites.

There are no restrictions on personal movement at Alert Level 1 - all staff are able to work at school, across satellites and attend offsite and onsite meetings with families and external agencies

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School staff are to observe students on arrival into the classroom checking for symptoms and ask those presenting as unwell to go home (or arrange for parents and caregivers to come and pick up). Please note, this does not mean that temperatures are to be taken.

A reminder that Principals at state and state-integrated schools have authority to preclude a student from attending if they believe on reasonable grounds they may have a communicable disease under section 19 of the Education Act – see [Guide to Legal Powers](#).

Soap, water and the ability to dry hands should be provided in bathrooms. Sanitiser and/or soap will be available in classrooms and teaching spaces.

There are no restrictions on gatherings at Alert Level 1

Contact tracing registers are not required at Alert Level 1. As is usual practice you will need to continue to record attendance in your SMS and record visitors coming on-site. There is no requirement to include parents and caregivers undertaking drop offs and pick-ups in your visitor register.

Schools are encouraged to display QR Code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App. These are located on the main entry doors.

Physical distancing is not a requirement but where possible or practicable is encouraged when you are around people you don't know.

Regular cleaning and disinfecting of commonly touched surfaces is recommended and disinfectant is available to all classes. This must be stored safely and inaccessible to students.

PPE is not required or recommended as necessary in any educational facility by the Public Health Service

Teachers, support staff and therapists are able to teach across more than one group/class of students

There are no restrictions on physical activities including cultural and sporting activities, practices and events