



24 May 2020

### Re: Preparation for Week 2 on Level 2

Dear Students and Parents/Caregivers

It's good to see that the majority of students have returned to school, re-establishing their relationships with their friends and teachers, and engaging in great learning under Level 2 protocols.

It is reassuring that over the last week:

- There has only been one new confirmed case associated with a known cluster. Four other cases were added to the nation's total, however, these were New Zealanders who tested positive in Uruguay in April and did not get added to that country's total.
- There have been no confirmed cases in the Bay of Plenty. The last confirmed case in the Bay of Plenty was on 19 April 2020, which is over a month ago.
- An average over 4,500 tests were carried out per day.
- The number of confirmed cases in New Zealand has tracked down from 45 to 28.

### Key Messages for Week 2 on Level 2

#### 1. Planner

Monday 25 May (Day 7) to Friday 29 May (Day 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Normal classes.</li></ul>
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## **2. Health and Safety**

- Our focus first and foremost for students and staff is health and wellbeing.
- Students and staff are expected to abide by the Level 2 Health and Safety protocols.
- Students and staff are expected to take responsibility for their personal hygiene to minimise risk to themselves and others, including:
  - Staying home if you are unwell.
  - Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
  - Maintaining an appropriate physical distancing where practical.
  - Not breathing on, or touching, each other.
  - Coughing or sneezing into your elbow.
  - Washing your hands thoroughly and often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, followed by drying your hands completely.
  - Avoiding touching your face.

## **3. Transport**

- Buses will be running with their own protocols including disinfecting buses before each trip and students sanitising before boarding.
- Parents/caregivers are welcome to drop off and pick up their children on Tui Street if they wish.
- Students with a driver's licence may bring their car to school. However, they must abide by the Health and Safety protocols, including not leaving the school grounds during the day.

## **4. Cleanliness of our School**

- There are facilities throughout the school where students and staff are able to wash their hands with soap and water, and dry with paper towels or air dryers. In addition, there is hand sanitiser available throughout the school.
- Regularly touched surfaces, including tables, chairs, computer keyboards, door handles, and toilets will be cleaned regularly.
- Students and staff are expected to take responsibility for maintaining the cleanliness of our school, including:
  - Maintaining good personal hygiene practices mentioned above.
  - Keeping the surfaces of their workspace clean.
  - Disinfecting devices used at the end of each period.
  - Putting all litter in the bin.
  - Avoid touching other surfaces not being used.

## **5. Preparation for Learning**

- The students and their parents/caregivers are expected to take responsibility for ensuring that the student is prepared for learning by bringing the following to school:
  - Their own bag.
  - Their own learning equipment, including stationery, pens, books, and paper. Stationery items will not be available from teachers.

- Their own water bottle filled with water. The school drinking fountains will not be available until further notice.
- Their own lunch unless they are buying it from the canteen. The canteen is operating under appropriate Health and Safety protocols, including the option of **payWave** for contactless payment until the 30 June 2020. Students and parents/caregivers must ensure the security of the payment cards as payWave accepts all cards without the need for a pin code.
- Their own laptop/Chromebook if they wish. Please note that the school does not take responsibility for any digital device brought on site.
- Teachers are well aware of the need to support their students at school. They know that their students will have experienced varying levels of success during the **Remote Teaching and Learning** programme. Our teachers will provide extra support for those who have struggled. It is important that our students are grateful for this help and are serious about their learning.

## 6. Return of Chromebook and Laptops

- Te Puke High School Chromebooks and Ministry of Education laptops are now due back at school.
- If you haven't already returned the machine loaned to you, please do so on Monday morning so that it can be serviced prior to being used in the classroom.
- Please ensure that you return the machine and its power cable.

## 7. Health Warning - Rheumatic Fever is on the Rise in the Bay of Plenty Region

- During the lockdown period, a high number of children were diagnosed with Rheumatic Fever in the Bay of Plenty region.
- ***Everyone aged 4-19 years is at risk of Rheumatic Fever, especially Māori and Pasifika.***
- Rheumatic fever is a serious but preventable illness. It mainly affects young people (aged 4 to 19 years), especially if they have other family members who have had rheumatic fever. Poor housing conditions and overcrowding is a known risk factor.
- Rheumatic fever starts with a sore throat that is known as 'strep throat' – a throat infection caused by a bacteria called Group A Streptococcus. Most sore throats get better on their own after about four days. However, if strep throat is not treated with antibiotics it can cause rheumatic fever in at-risk children and young people.
- Prevention of Rheumatic Fever:
  - Every time your child has a sore throat it could be serious. Don't ignore it – take them to a doctor or nurse straight away to get it checked. Call Healthline on 0800 611 116 to find out more.
  - If your child is given antibiotics, it's important they take them for the whole 10 days, even if they feel better. This will stop the sore throat turning into Rheumatic Fever.
- Skin infections are also common in young people and have links to Rheumatic fever. If left untreated, skin infections can lead to serious health problems.

These infections can affect the blood, kidneys, bones, joints, lymph nodes and brain resulting in people needing to be hospitalised for treatment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Alan Liddle

**Principal**

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