



12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students of Opihi College

Firstly my apologies for the length of this letter. There is a lot to cover.

Like all schools in New Zealand, Opihi College is currently planning and preparing for schooling under Alert Level 2. The good news is that we will be ready to welcome all students and staff back to our school site on **Monday 18th May**.

The key Public Health approach is to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected.

As we have done in Alert Level 3, you can be assured that in Alert Level 2 we will know who is at school, and we will, with your help, be able to track who our staff and students have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe.

To ensure that **EVERYONE** at Opihi College is safe we are asking our parent community to support the staff and students by:

## 1. Sickness

- Under Alert Level 2, we need to ensure any students and staff stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms.

## 2. Accessing Opihi College

- We ask that you **do not** access the school site, instead we encourage you to phone the office or email the most appropriate staff member as opposed to coming onsite.
- If you absolutely must come to school, you must make an appointment, come to the reception at the appropriate time and **YOU MUST SANITISE YOUR HANDS AND COMPLETE THE CONTACT REGISTER** inside the front door.
- Entry to the school administration building is restricted to **three visitors**, including parents/caregivers, at any one time. Entry will be monitored by Admin staff. Please maintain 1m social distancing at all times.



### 3. Other Considerations during Alert Level 2

- Apart from the current students who are currently onsite under Alert Level 3 we will not be welcoming any additional students back onsite until **MONDAY 18th May**. We have no further staff available to manage bubbles before Monday as their time is being used to prepare for Monday. Those students currently attending school must continue to follow Level 3 rules on site this week.
- **Friday 15th May** - teaching staff will not be interacting with online learning, feedback or activities as they will all be onsite setting up Opihi College for teaching under Alert Level 2.
- **ALL CHROMEBOOKS** and **LAPTOPS** that have been provided by the school to support online learning **MUST** be returned on or before **Monday 18th May**. These can be dropped off on the table outside admin between 1pm and 3pm on Friday or can be dropped off at the student office by the students on Monday morning. Please note that even if your student is not returning to school, we need all the school's devices back in order to support our in school learning programmes. Those who have received Ministry of Education laptops this week do not have to return them yet; however, you must bring them to school with you each day to use for your own work.

### 4. Physical Distancing

**Physical distancing is challenging in schools as we are working with children who can be naturally impulsive and rely heavily on all the senses to communicate.** Good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here. This includes staff and students coughing into their elbows, hand washing and drying and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. We will be reinforcing and educating all our students around the MOE distancing messages around no touch and be far enough away so you can't feel/smell breath. Staff will continue to monitor and reinforce these practices and correct our students if mistakes are made. You can help by reinforcing these messages at home.

### 5. Canteen

We are working on preparing for the canteen to open. We will let you know as soon as we have a definite opening date.

### Alert Level 2 - Intention of Schooling

Over the next couple of days our teachers will be contacting you to discuss what your plans are for your children under Level 2. Please share with them whether your child will be returning to school. If you plan to keep your child at home this information will save us from checking in with you daily with regard to attendance



# OPIHI COLLEGE

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*Note:* If your child(ren) are not returning to school, we will support their learning by sending hard copy work packs, however NO staff members will be responsible for monitoring home based learning as the focus will need to be on the huge workload involved in planning, preparing, teaching and managing the transition back to their daily classes.

## Welcome Back

We are very excited about welcoming the majority of our students back. To help prepare your children for a transition back to school please also remind them that once again Opihi College will be:

- safe
- clean
- welcoming

Our highly respected Joe Sharp will be back on site from Monday. He is likely to be extremely busy so it will initially be necessary for students to have booked appointments with him. Mr Sharp will still be available to meet with some students online to help them prepare for a delayed return to school; however, his first priority will be to support those who are in school.

Many thanks for the incredible work you are doing in supporting your children and our staff during an extremely challenging time. The online learning I have seen is of the highest quality. Thank you for your words of encouragement and support during this time. Our staff really appreciate your acknowledgement of the hard work they have been doing.

We will write to you again later in the week once we have further information/instructions from the Ministry of Education, the Government, Public Health entities and Work Safe NZ.

We all can't wait till next **MONDAY!!!!**

Nga mihi

Tina Johnson  
Principal