

## **ALERT LEVEL 2 North East Valley Normal School - Guidelines**

### **Overarching message: Leave home but in a safe way**

Our school will be open the Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

Public health measures remain largely unchanged from Level 3.

We are told that the most important things we can do at Level 2 are to keep washing our hands, cough safely, keep surfaces clean and keep a track of those with whom we have contact.

The significant changes for school operation:

- **Physical Distancing**

Physical distancing helps to prevent the spread of disease. In the Alert level 2 school environment, this means children and staff should maintain a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other. This should be coupled with good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

There are situations where physical distancing is not possible, such as some sporting activities. In these situations extra emphasis on handwashing and drying (or cleansing with hand sanitiser) before and after activities and regular cleaning of equipment is very important.

- **Mass gatherings**

Educational facilities, and school transport are not considered mass gatherings because they are managed environments. This means there are no restrictions on numbers of people indoors or outside at school other than what other public health or health and safety measures require.

The exception is where people from outside the school may be attending, eg for a school art show or school athletics day. In these examples the mass gathering rules will apply.

Hiring out the school hall is not allowed for the above reason.

- **Sports and playgrounds –playgrounds, sports-equipment use and activities can resume. Contact sports can resume.**

Any inter-school events that recommence will need to have a contact tracing register in place to record those playing for and against teams.

- There are no restrictions on groups of children and students mixing with others on site.
- Staff members are not restricted to one group.

Staff at higher-risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (eg those with underlying medical conditions, especially if not well-controlled) are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home.

## COVID-19 Cases

Upon advice from the local medical officer or 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.

Ministry of Education Advice Regarding Specific public health measures to be taken are:

- Parents are asked to keep any sick children at home. If a sick child comes to the school, send them home.
- Ensure all children regularly wash and dry their hands.
- Ensure hand sanitiser is available and teachers/staff must supervise its location and use in order to avoid misuse.
- Ensure that children do not give and take food to and from each other. Food can be supplied in accordance with public health guidance.
- Toys that had been put away under Alert Level 3 because they cannot be easily wiped down or cleaned frequently can be used again if all children are regularly washing their hands and are staying home if unwell.
- Outdoor play areas and equipment including sandpits can be used but children must wash their hands after use.
- Disinfect and clean all surfaces at least daily.
- Contact tracing registers must be in place to record who is on site each day and who visits. Visits must be arranged in advance and visitors must report first to the office and their name and place of visit recorded.
- OSCAR programmes can open.

In summary, these are the specific public health measures to be taken:

- Children, young people and staff should be far enough away from each other so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, coupled with good hygiene practices and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. There does not need to be a specific measurement but where practicable 1m should be used as a guide, particularly between adults.
- Hand sanitiser must be placed at the entry to classrooms and in shared spaces. Soap, water and the ability to dry hands must be provided in bathrooms.
- Where practicable ensure that children and young people regularly wash and dry hands, cough and sneeze into their elbow, and try to avoid touching their face.
- Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment including playgrounds but hygiene practice should be observed after playing with equipment.
- Disinfect and clean all surfaces daily.

- Contact tracing registers must be set up and identify which children and adults are on site, in each teaching space, including recording if there is a different composition of children and adults during the day. This includes recording visitors to the site, including parents.