



St Patrick's College Silverstream

No 32

Wednesday 12 August 2020

Vision Statement

St Patrick's College, Silverstream is a boys' school of excellence, founded on Catholic and Marist values and traditions where students develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which enable them to become compassionate, just and successful citizens. Our students are challenged and motivated to achieve personal excellence in an innovative learning environment enhanced by tradition, superb facilities, quality teaching and a supportive College community



Tēnā koutou katoa, Greetings everyone

On Tuesday 11 August, the Prime Minister announced that New Zealand will move into Alert Level 2 from 12 noon on Wednesday 12 August. This means from Thursday 13 August Alert Level 2 criteria will apply.

We know that children and young people's well-being is important. The staff of the College are working hard to ensure that all necessary well-being and safety protocols are in place.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister advised that in Alert Level 2, schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff and that additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.

The key Public Health approach is to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure that we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected. You can be assured that in Alert Level 2, we will know who is at school, who our staff and students have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. We do however know it is challenging in schools, so good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here. This includes staff and students coughing into their elbows, handwashing and drying, and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Under Alert Level 2, we advise any students and staff to stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms of being unwell. If you have a child who might be vulnerable to serious illness it is recommended that you speak to your health practitioner for advice on attendance at school. Under Alert Level 2 it is safe to send your children to school and we encourage you to do so. Please do get in touch with us if you wish to discuss this further, and let us know if your son will learn from home.

Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. As described by Dr Payinda in his New Zealand Herald article, "Covid's is 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". We all just need to remember to have some breathing space at Alert Level 2!

It's important however that not just at school but at home, safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone, as this is essential to minimise the risk that someone gets infected with Covid-19.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

We will continue to update you as additional information about Alert Levels is received.

Ngā mihi

Sectare Fidem

Grahame Duffy
Rector

■ COLLEGE SPORT

Today we received the following information from College Sport, Wellington:

Following the Government's Alert Level 2 announcement last night and update this morning, College Sport Wellington has reviewed its competitions and events over the next 72 hours. At the same time we have been in communication with our member schools and partner sports to ensure that the appropriate plans and safety measures are in place. Thankfully our schools have been preparing for this eventuality and their "Sport at Alert Level 2" plans were already well advanced.

Based on that review, the following decisions have been made to proceed with the following fixtures this afternoon (Wednesday, 12 August):

- Wednesday afternoon girls football matches will proceed today
- Wednesday afternoon Ultimate Frisbee competition matches will proceed today
- Wednesday afternoon eSport competition matches will proceed today

However, based on the advice of our partner sports, the following events have either been cancelled or postponed:

- Girls Rugby – no matches may proceed tonight. The decision on whether these games are cancelled or postponed will be communicated in due course
- Table Tennis – no matches may proceed tonight. The decision on whether these games are cancelled or postponed will be communicated in due course.
- Indoor Bowls – Thursday's tournament (13 August) is postponed, with a new date to be confirmed in due course.

Clearly this is a very fluid situation, so we will not be rushing our decisions on competitions and events beyond those listed above. In terms of a timeline, from here we will adopt the following timeframes:

- Thursday afternoon sport – decisions to be communicated late morning on Thursday
- Friday afternoon sport – decisions to be communicated late morning on Friday
- Weekend sport – decisions to be communicated late afternoon on Friday.

All decisions will be communicated via email, website and social media. Beyond this weekend, we are hopeful further government updates will give us a good steer in the next several days, and we will naturally communicate accordingly

We thank you in advance for your support of these decisions, and ask that you follow the instructions of the host school or venue when attending matches. Our member schools will now liaise directly with each other on specific requirements for visitors.