

# FAQ's Covid 19

## Kia Ora Parents, Whanau and Friends

For some parents the idea of allowing your child return to the kindergarten while Covid 19 is present in New Zealand will be a terrifying prospect. And some parents are also enduring the stress of juggling working while having children at home. We've put together a list of FAQs which we hope will be helpful for you.

### **Under Level 3. When can my child start attending the service?**

Any child who can't be supervised at home by an appropriate person. WE do have bubble size limits of 20 children. Please phone the service Manager to confirm there is a place for your child.

### **Who should not attend an early learning service?**

Any child who can be supervised at home.

Anyone who is sick should stay home (phone Healthline on 0800 358 5453 or their GP and get tested if a doctor or health professional recommends to do so).

Anyone who is self-isolating, or who has been advised by health authorities to remain at home while they wait for their COVID-19 test results, must stay home.

### **Do children need to wear face coverings at Alert Level 3?**

No. Public Health officials have advised that children under the age of 6 should not wear face coverings. Other public health control measures will be in place including early learning bubbles with a maximum of twenty children, children and staff staying home if they are sick, contact tracing, and hygiene requirements.

### **Do teachers need to wear face coverings at Alert Level 3?**

Teachers do not need to wear face coverings within their early learning bubbles of up to twenty children. Outside of their own early learning or school bubble, teachers are encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a face covering in situations where they are unable to maintain a distance of 2m from people who are not in their bubble of 20, including talking to other adults at school. Other public health measures will be in place including children and staff staying home if they are sick, contact tracing, and hygiene requirements.

### **Why doesn't the centre take children and staff temperatures when they arrive?**

Taking temperatures is not part of the public health requirements for COVID-19. It is also not an overly effective tool to screen for people who might have symptoms of COVID-19. The symptoms are varied and majority of people only have mild symptoms, particularly children. Someone who has a fever looks unwell. You don't have to take their temperature to suspect they have a fever.

If someone is showing signs of a fever, we may want to take their temperature as part of our usual first aid response to inform medical practitioners and/or parents and caregivers. Teachers observe children in attendance, checking for symptoms and those presenting as unwell, and will follow the sickness policy and arrange for parents and caregivers to come and pick their child up.

### **How does the service manage physical distancing?**

There is no requirement for staff and children within their bubble to physically distance, although it is recommended that separation is encouraged as much as possible through the placement of resources and activities in the service.

The number of children in the same room or physical space is to be limited to bubbles of no more than 20 children. Each bubble must remain separate from other bubbles within the service.

Inside the classrooms adults, where practicable, use 1m as a guide between themselves and other adults and cannot mix between bubbles. Outside the classroom adults are asked to be 2m apart and staff breaks are staggered.

### **How does the service keep resources and surfaces clean and sanitized?**

Some resources (food role play items, cushions, dress-ups, messy art play, sandpit & any toys and equipment that cannot easily be sanitized) are not available during Alert Level 3. The service has thorough procedures in place for daily cleaning, a good amount of cleaning supplies, rotate resources and staff and the commercial cleaning company have received additional instruction & training. See our detailed actions on our Management plan.

### **What happens if the service has a confirmed or probable case?**

If the person or persons who are a confirmed or probable case have worked in or attended the service when they could have been infectious (which could start up to 2 days prior to having symptoms) the service will be closed for at least 72 hours to allow time for contact tracing and a deep clean of the service to align with Ministry of Health guidelines.

In addition to closure for 72 hours for contact tracing, health authorities could require closure for longer periods of time, up to 14 further days.

Detailed information is available in our Covid19 Management Plan and at the service, as well as available online provided by the Ministry of Education- COVID-19 in your school or early learning service.

### **Do the teachers talk about Covid-19 to the children?**

Yes we do. Helping children with the changes caused by the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) means providing accurate information, discussing facts without causing undue alarm, and re-establishing routines. Teachers and children talk about the "new normal" and teachers role model proper cough/sneeze etiquette and washing hands regularly to rid ourselves of germs.

Nanogirl video clip with a great explanation for kids about coronavirus:

YouTube clip – Nanogirl <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPsY-jLqaXM>

### **What happens to my childcare fees?**

Throughout Level 3 and Level 2 your child's enrolment is secure - whether your child attends or remains at home. Childcare fees are only charged when your child attends the service.