



COVID-19 Update #9 to Wee Nippers Community

21 April 2020

RESPONSE REQUIRED

Kia Ora to all of our families and whanau

On Monday 20 April PM Jacinda Ardern announced that New Zealand will move to COVID-19 Alert Level 3 at 11:59 on Monday 27 April. Alert Level 3 will be in place until at least 11:59 Monday 11 May. The PM will announce if and when New Zealand will move to Alert Level 2 on Monday 11 May.

At Alert Level 3, ECE services and schools up to Year 10 are to open for children of essential workers and employees who can return to their workplaces with sufficient safety measures in place. The government is asking that everyone who can work from home to continue to do so. The government is also asking that children who have health issues that make them vulnerable to COVID-19 or children who live in homes or share bubbles with elderly or vulnerable people also remain at home.

Based on the PM's announcement yesterday, it is **proposed** that Wee Nippers reopen for these children and families on **Wednesday 29 April** after a teacher only day and final deep cleaning of the Centre on Tuesday 28 April.

Over the past week we have taken on advice from the Ministries of Education and Health and had Zoom meetings with our team about how this would work at Wee Nippers. We are working to best-practice and we are testing and tweaking our plans against the almost daily advice we are getting from the government. See below for a sense of some of the changes to how we usually do things. This is not all we are doing, but we hope that it answers some top of mind questions about how we are approaching this.

The key information that we are missing is how many families in our community need us at Level 3.

Please can you respond by tomorrow, Wednesday 22 April at 11am advising;

- **either - that your children will attend Wee Nippers from 29 April 2020**
- **or - that you will wait until 12 May 2020 or when it is decided if the country will move to Alert Level 2 to have your children attend Wee Nippers.**

If you're returning to Wee Nippers from 29 April, we realise that there may be timetable changes to suit changed working situations. Once you have confirmed that you are returning, Rachel or Nat will call to discuss any timetable changes with you on Thursday. All other children's timetables will remain as at 23 March for now.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact Nat or Rachel.

Nga mihi

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COVID-19 Alert Level 3 Wee Nippers Operations Manual changes include;

- Maintaining the hygiene and cleaning protocols we introduced at Level 2 before the lockdown (see <http://www.weenippers.co.nz/assets/COVID-19/Corona-Virus-StoryPark-and-Discover-17-Mar-2020.pdf> for details we shared with you 17 March).
- Establishing 'bubbles' of 10 children that could eventually increase to 20. Once created, these bubbles would be maintained throughout Alert Level 3.
- Prohibiting entry to Wee Nippers for children, caregivers or employees who are sick or displaying any symptoms of ANY sickness.
- Phased and new protocols for drop off and pick ups with a designated caregiver.
- A cone placed in every second park in the carpark to create a gap for drop off and pick up between families caregivers requested to remain in their car until the path inside is clear and there is appropriate distance for families to wait to sign in.
- Setting up of a sanitising station outside the front door for compulsory use before entering.
- Access limited to a bubble's classroom for teachers and children only.
- Centre Manager and administrators to stay out of all bubbles and only interact with staff and parents at reception.
- Creating a contact register of anyone who enters Wee Nippers during Alert Level 3 (and probably maintaining this for the foreseeable future).
- No entry to the Centre by anyone other than Wee Nippers employees and designated drop off and pick up caregivers.
- Children seated with as much space as possible between them using as many tables as possible.
- Gloves used when applying sunscreen, changing nappies, doing laundry and kitchen duties.
- All pacifiers will be stored in individual named containers and sterilised between use, dropped on the ground or touched by anyone.
- Mat times dropped or held in smaller groups to allow more space between children.
- Hats stored in cubbies.
- Rooms ventilated as much as possible and kept to a minimum of 18degrees.
- All sleeping in the verandha areas in the fresh air, allowing as much space between beds as possible with the exception of babies who will sleep in the baby's sleep room.
- Increased supervision of bathroom use to ensure the bubbles do not mix.
- Allocated playground time to keep bubbles separated.
- Outside playground equipment limited and scheduled wipe down after use.
- Dishes of food covered when they leave the kitchen and then dished by a teacher wearing gloves. Fruit etc that is usually on a platter is in individual lidded containers for dishing to the children. Lunch menu kept to all in one meals rather than separate components e.g. Lasagne

NOTE: These are examples of new protocols during Alert Level 3 and not an exhaustive list.

Quick links:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/>

<http://www.weenippers.co.nz/news/covid-19-updates/>

<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/>

<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/supporting-learning/home-learning-tv>