



Tuesday 17 March 2020

## Covid-19 Update

Kia ora koutou

No doubt you are all following the updates that are coming from the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Education are keeping us informed as the situation evolves and providing guidance on the response we will make.

The effect of this virus has been witnessed around the world and it is important that as a school we prepare for any effects of the virus and maintain communication with families and caregivers.

The following information lets you know what COVID-19 is and what we, as a school, are doing to manage COVID-19.

### **What is COVID-19?**

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It is caused by a type of coronavirus.

### **Symptoms:**

The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath

These symptoms do not necessarily mean you have COVID-19. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common such as cold and flu.

If at any point in time you feel unwell, please call your medical centre or Healthline 0800 611 166.

### **How can the spread of COVID-19 be prevented?**

The following hygiene measures can be followed to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues
- put used tissues in the bin immediately
- wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds)
- try and avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean
- avoid personal contact – high fives, handshakes, hongis, hugging

### **What are we doing at school?**

We are teaching, practising and reinforcing with our students the importance of washing hands. Hands should be washed with soap and warm water often and for at least 20 seconds.

We are teaching children to sneeze into their elbow as a preventative measure.

### **The Board of Trustees:**

The board will meet this week to make decisions about a number of school activities which include:

- School assemblies – whether we make the decision to stop these are present
- Year 4 camp to Ohiwa – whether to cancel this
- Year 5 & 6 camp to Totara Springs – whether to cancel this

If a decision is made earlier we will let you know.

### **What advice are we following?**

We are receiving regular updates and communication from the Ministry of Education, who advise and inform schools of updates, developments, good practice and procedures.

**Will schools close?**

Schools currently remain open. If a decision was to be made to close schools, this is a decision that would not be made the school. The decision would be communicated to schools from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and /or the District Health Board.

**What can family do?**

We value your support and know you will also be supportive of the above hygiene practices and the advice from the Prime Minister. If you would like to know more information about COVID-19 please call 0800 356 5453

**What do I tell my child?**

The Ministry of Education has provided information about how parents can talk to their children about COVID-19. Please visit the ministry website to find out more.

<https://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>

**Self-Isolation:**

A reminder that the Government announcement in the weekend a requirement that all arrivals from overseas are to self-isolate. Please make contact with the school office to let us know if this applies to you so we can assist you with resources while you are in isolation.

**Communication:**

We will use all means of communication to keep you up to date as new information becomes available. These include:

- the school newsletter which is on the website and Facebook
- the school app
- bulk email

Nga mihi  
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