



16/03/2020

Dear Parents / Caregivers

The Government has announced that New Zealand is stepping up its pandemic response plans to **COVID-19**. This means that the situation in New Zealand and overseas has changed and New Zealand's borders have been tightened in an attempt to stop the virus spreading further.

Our school is talking with the Ministry of Education who are providing updated information as it comes to hand and we have been advised that there is no reason for alarm. Our school will remain open until further notice. Our own pandemic plans mean that we have systems in place to help us cope if anything changes.

Symptoms of **COVID-19** include:

- Coughing
- A shortness of breath
- A temperature of at least 38 degrees

The most important thing you can do as parents and caregivers is reinforce healthy messages. Meanwhile, please follow the instructions below:

- Teach your children the importance of good hand washing and drying
- Teach your children to use good coughing and sneezing etiquette
- Do not hug, hongi or shake hands with anyone
- Be vigilant: keep your child away if they are unwell

In the first instance if you are concerned your child may be showing symptoms of **COVID-19**, people are being asked to ring Health Line on 0800 611 116. We ask that all children showing any symptoms be kept home until checked and okayed by a doctor or nurse to return to school.

The Board of Trustees and I are working closely with staff to ensure that all students at our school are kept as safe as possible.

Find out more about **COVID-19** on this website which has the most up-to-date and accurate information:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronaviruses>

If you have any questions or concerns at this stage, please phone Health Line on 0800 611 116 or contact me directly at school.

Yours sincerely

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