



COVID-19 Update

Thursday 19th March 2020

Kia ora whanau,

As I am sure you are aware, the recommendations, guidelines and instructions provided to us by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, can develop and change on a daily basis. We will continue to provide our own updates in regard to the impact that these changes have on the College.

Self-Isolation following travel

On the weekend we were instructed that all people returning to or entering New Zealand after 1:00am on Monday morning would be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

Yesterday it was announced that in addition to this, the government strongly recommends that **ALL** people (New Zealanders and visitors) who have returned to or entered New Zealand in the past 14 days should also self isolate for the 14 day period.

I understand that there may be confusion about what to do for the best. We fully support the recommendations for those entering New Zealand in the last 2 weeks, and also support you in keeping your daughter home if this relates to you. Thank you to those families who have contacted the school in this regard.

This evening we have been informed that as of tomorrow our country's borders will be closed for all visitors and tourists. New Zealand citizens and residents, and their partners and children, will still be allowed entry, followed by a mandatory 14 day self-isolation period.

You can continue to keep informed with Government and Ministry of Health updates through the following websites

<https://covid19.govt.nz/latest-updates>

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

Gatherings of more than 100

The Government has reinforced its commitment to protecting the health of New Zealanders through the cancellation of indoor events with more than 100 people. Schools are exempt from this. However, we will not be holding any whole school assemblies until further notice, and we will continue to manage any and all gatherings of our students within the guidelines provided to schools by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

School Sports

We continue to be in contact with the authorities that govern our varying sports codes. At present most sports have been put on hold until further notice. We are awaiting advice on whether or not our school team trials should continue and will be able to confirm this soon.

Still NO School Closure

We have had no information in regard to any school closure for our College. Unfortunately the media continues to send mixed messages. Please rest assured that in the unlikely event of a closure of any length of time, we will contact our families as soon as we are able.

We will continue to plan for this unlikely event, so that our students are all able to continue with their learning as best as possible. We are putting a remote learning plan together and will discuss what this looks like with our students in the coming days and provide further guidelines for our families.

Health and Well-being

We are very aware that some of our students may be feeling anxious at present. Please make contact with your daughter's Dean if you are experiencing this.

There are other illnesses, colds and bugs going around. If your daughter is sick for any reason, please keep them home from school.

Please continue to reinforce with your daughter that the best active 'thing' they can do is to continue to practice good hygiene:

- Washing of hands
- Ensure a full water bottle is brought into school each day
- Washing of hands
- NOT sharing drink bottles or food
- Washing of hands
- Coughing into elbows
- Washing of hands
- Using tissues and then discarding in the bin properly
- Washing of hands
- Avoiding body contact eg shaking hands, hugging, hongi etc.

Contact Healthline for free on 0800 358 5453, or your GP if you begin to feel unwell. Some symptoms of COVID-19 are cough, fever, and shortness of breath.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Please rest assured that we will continue to follow the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health advice to ensure we do what is best for our students, staff and wider community.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Anna Swann

PRINCIPAL