Tēnā koutou

The Prime Minister announced yesterday that measures are now in place for travellers arriving from Northern Italy and from South Korea. They will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days (calculated from the date they left South Korea or Northern Italy). They are still able to travel to New Zealand, there is no restriction of access to New Zealand for people arriving from these two countries. The Government also extended the existing travel restrictions for travellers from China and Iran for a further 7 days.

The Ministry of Health, as a result of this announcement, has updated their [Advice for travellers](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-advice-travellers). In summary:

* **Category 1** – travellers who have been present in or transited through countries in this category are being asked to self-isolate for 14 days on arrival – currently **Iran, China, South Korea and Northern Italy**. Note for Iran and China, there are also restrictions in place for who can travel to New Zealand.  New Zealand citizens, permanent residents, residents with valid travel conditions and their immediate family, will still be able to come to New Zealand. Australian citizens and permanent residents are also not subject to the travel restrictions if New Zealand is their primary place of established residence.
* **Category 2** – travellers from countries in this category should be aware of COVID-19 symptoms. **They do not have to self-isolate if well**. They should self-isolate if they develop any symptoms of concern and ring Healthline (0800 358 5453) if they develop symptoms within 14 days of departing the Category 2 country. Countries currently in this category are Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Italy (noting northern Italy is in category 1).

The Ministry of Education has organised for those students who are unable to return to New Zealand or who are in isolation a new Te Kura gateway - Emergency: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This allows New Zealand born and New Zealand residents to access government-funded dual tuition at Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu. Please contact the school and ask for Mr Wright if your child requires this support.

The Ministry of Health’s key message is for us to continue to be alert but not alarmed. They continue to stress that good hygiene practices are the best defence. These practices include:

* [Washing hands with soap and water](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGJNspLRdrc) before and after eating as well as after going to the toilet. In particular, to wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, making sure you dry them thoroughly. Singing Happy Birthday twice, slowly should take about 20 seconds
* Covering coughs and sneezes with clean tissues or with an elbow
* Putting used tissues in the bin
* Encouraging staff and students to stay home if they are unwell

Please continue to refer to the [Ministry of Health](https://govt.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2f59fcd18a691d315b5a045cb&id=2ab74c2c74&e=4c1fa23446) website, for further information.

Karen Stewart

Principal / Tumuaki