

Kia ora,

As you are aware the COVID-19 situation is evolving rapidly. With the [announcement](#) yesterday that New Zealand has moved to [Alert Level 2 – Reduce Contact](#) for COVID-19, people over 70 years of age and those with compromised immunity and certain existing medical conditions (i.e. high risk individuals) have been asked to remain at home as much as they can from now on and avoid any non-essential travel. High risk individuals include people with underlying medical conditions, such as:

- a compromised immune system
- liver disease
- cancer
- kidney disease
- heart disease
- diabetes mellitus

For the rest of our school community it is school as normal. Our focus is on maintaining school routines to provide some normality in these uncertain times.

We are receiving up-to-date advice and guidance through the Ministry of Education. With so much information and misinformation swirling around about COVID-19, I wanted to share with you again what will happen if we were to have a case in our school community.

As soon as a case is confirmed in our immediate school community (e.g. a student, staff member, or member of their household), the Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Education will inform me about this, and we will work together to get quick and clear messaging out to you. If there was a case confirmed of someone in our school, we will likely be asked to close temporarily by the Medical Officer of Health. This will allow time for close contacts to be traced, appropriate testing to be undertaken, and a careful clean of the school to be undertaken. If our school does need to close temporarily, we have a plan in place to support students' learning. Please [click here to read our Remote Learning Plan](#).

We know COVID-19 feels scary and, of course, people are concerned about the wellbeing of our children. Please be assured that with no case confirmed in our school, your children are safe here. Good hygiene is a priority at our school, and we are reinforcing this regularly with all students and staff. We know that practising good hygiene is still the best thing we can all do to prevent illness.

One other action we can all take is to be vigilant about our own health and the health of our children. I will be encouraging my staff to stay away from school if they are showing signs of illness such as coughs and colds. I ask that you please do the same with your children. Colds and flu are common in schools and by staying away, seeking medical attention and practising good hygiene, we can all keep any spread of illness to a minimum.

We are aware that some of our families are experiencing, or will experience, new pressures at this time. Please let the school know of any relevant change in personal or work circumstances, particularly those which may affect your children.

Regards,

Karen Stewart

Principal / Tumuaki