



23 March 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Further to recent communication about COVID-19 I want to thank everyone for your support in this time of continual change. It is comforting to know that families are adhering to self isolation requests outlined in last Thursday's newsletter, for the well being of our school community. It is sensible and very much appreciated. As the nation has now moved to Alert 2 please continue to have children stay away until the 14 day incubation period is up if your family has been overseas, if someone in your household has been overseas, or if your child has associated with someone who is in self isolation because they've been overseas.

The board and I continue to stay focused on holding to official advice from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. We met as recently as Friday 20 March to review emergency plans and ensure they are fit for purpose. We are continuing to work on creating online distance learning programmes to support students should we have to close. Details of this will be sent to you at that time.

Some have asked about school closure. We are told that if community transmission happens schools may well close. Meantime, if a case was identified in our school community the Ministry of Health would advise us, and the school would likely be closed temporarily. The following Ministry of Education link outlines why schools should remain open <http://www.education.govt.nz/news/covid-19-why-schools-early-learning-services-remain-open/>

We know that COVID-19 feels scary but please be assured that with no case confirmed in our school, your children are safe here. Keeping calm, carrying on, and maintaining normal routines and social contacts at school is important for the emotional well being of students, staff and the wider community.

As already advised good hygiene is a priority, 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. To this end the following are being strongly encouraged.

- Washing and drying hands with soap and water thoroughly before eating and after visiting the bathroom
- Coughing into one's elbow
- Using a tissue when necessary, putting it in the bin and washing hands afterwards
- Get adequate sleep and eat a well-balanced diet to ensure a healthy immune system
- Staying home if feeling sick

We have ensured access to increased quantities of paper towels, soap, hand sanitizers, and tissues throughout the school. As well, our cleaners have implemented enhanced cleaning regimes that focus on high touch areas particularly.

In the current situation some children may be anxious and need reassurance. It can be good to talk to them so they understand the illness and be reassured. Dr. Michele Dickinson (Nanogirl) has a good informational video for kids about COVID-19 that is included. Please see below.

See it [here](#)

The messaging remains clear. If your children are feeling unwell please have them stay home. This includes runny noses and some coughing.

A diagram has been developed by Dr Siouxsie Wiles to assist you when considering symptoms (sent to us by a teacher who found it useful). What it tells us is:

- A dry cough and a high temperature are common to both flu and COVID-19.
- Sneezing is **not** a symptom of COVID-19, however if someone has COVID-19, then sneezing can spread droplets containing the virus.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, FLU AND COLD

	DRY COUGH	FEVER	RUNNY NOSE	SORE THROAT	BREATH-LESSNESS	HEADACHE	BODY ACHES	SNEEZE	FATIGUE	DIARRHOEA
COVID-19										
FLU										
COLD										

FREQUENTLY
 SOMETIMES
 LITTLE
 RARE
 NOT

@SIOUXSIEW @XTOTL thespinoff.co.nz
 SOURCE: WHO, CDC
 CC-BY-SA

And for your information the Ministry of Education are on Facebook which parents can follow if they wish.

The links set out below are also useful for updates on COVID-19.

<http://www.education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>

Also Ministry of Health website

We are getting the most up to date advice and guidance so that we can confidently make informed decisions about the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, either by phone (09 489 4568) or email principal@hauraki.school.nz

A further update will be provided in a few days time.

Meantime, we ask all our families to closely monitor their children’s health particularly at this time. If any child is unwell please keep them at home and seek medical advice if necessary.

Thank you, and take care everyone.

Kia kaha.

Clarinda Franklin
Principal

