

COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) Community Information

The Prime Minister has announced the first case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in New Zealand.



We will continue to reinforce messages about hygiene practices.

Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence:

- wash your hands often with soap and water before and after eating as well as after attending the toilet
- cover coughs and sneezes with clean tissues or your elbow
- put used tissues in the bin.

We have soap and hand sanitiser readily available for classroom use.

As our policy states, to stop illness from spreading, it is important for students and staff to stay away from school if they are showing the symptoms.



If you are concerned that someone is showing symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath, encourage them to first ring **Healthline (0800 358 5453)** or contact their GP by phoning ahead of their visit to explain symptoms and travel history.

Latest information for families who have travelled overseas

As announced this week by the Ministry of Health, there are now two categories for travellers arriving in New Zealand:

- **Category 1** – People who have travelled from or transited through countries in category one in the last 14 days are required to self-isolate for 14 days and contact Healthline after they have left the countries. **Mainland China and Iran are the two countries included in this category (with Iran added to this category on Friday 28 February).**
- **Category 2** – People who have travelled from or via countries lists in category two who develop symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath should seek medical advice by first phoning Healthline's dedicated COVID-19 number 0800 358 5453 or contacting their GP including phoning ahead of their visit. **Countries in this**

category are Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

Please be mindful if you have guests or household members who have travelled and become unwell should follow the Ministry of Health guidelines and please let the school know of your concerns.

What will happen if someone in our community is confirmed with a case of the virus?

We will be notified about this by the Ministry of Health and may be asked to:

- Assist with contact tracing
- Work with them to send communications out to our community or to those who may have been in close contact
- Ensure our school is cleaned to Ministry Of Health standards
- Follow any other directions issued by Ministry Of Health, which may include school closure for a period of time.
- Should the need arise we will provide an isolation area until students can be collected from school

We will keep you informed, as we understand that this is an uncertain time and that a clear and level-headed approach is important. We encourage you to keep updated about the status of COVID-19 on the [Ministry of Health website](#).

Ngā mihi
Ginnie Warren
Principal