



Kia ora koutou Parents / Family / Whanau

At the time of writing this letter I am conscious of the everchanging nature in New Zealand as regards to COVID-19. We continue to monitor and respond to all information we are receiving from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. As we receive this information, I will communicate in a timely manner on any matters that impact upon us as a college and the continued provision of education.

In an effort to support our Prime Minister in terms of where people find their 'one source of the truth' I draw your attention to the COVID-19 website www.covid19.govt.nz. This site is the most up to date, reliable, accessible page from which to source your information and has a home page which grounds us in the reality and supports the notion of a fully informed, calm approach to our daily work. The Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment websites are also very helpful places to seek more detailed COVID-19 information.

With so much information and misinformation swirling around about COVID-19, I wanted to share with you what will happen if we were to have a case in our school community. We have been planning for this and are in a position to respond quickly.

- As soon as a case is confirmed in our immediate school community (eg. 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, as well as a careful clean of the school.
- If our school does need to close temporarily, we have a plan in place to support student's learning.

We know the COVID-19 situation feels scary and of course people are concerned for the wellbeing of their 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 practicing good hygiene is still the best thing we can all do to prevent illness.

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.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, FLU AND COLD

	DRY COUGH	FEVER	RUNNY NOSE	SORE THROAT	BREATH-LESSNESS	HEADACHE	BODY ACHE'S	SNEEZE	FATIGUE	DIARRHOEA
COVID -19	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	~	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✗	✓✓	~
FLU	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✗	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✗	✓✓✓	✓✓
COLD	✓	~	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✗	~	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✗

✓✓✓ FREQUENTLY
✓✓ SOMETIMES
✓ LITTLE
~ RARE
✗ NOT

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SOURCE: WHO, CDC CC-BY-SA

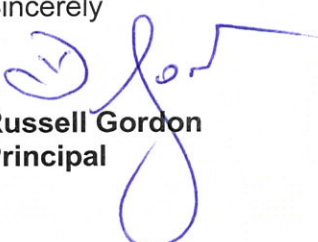
In order that our college is prepared for any and all eventualities, we have decided to repurpose Wednesday 25th March from the recently postponed Parent Teacher Interview day to a Staff Only Day. This Staff Only Day will allow departments to prepare their subject material so that, in the event of a short-term school closure, students can continue to learn. This preparation will include integrating learning into online platforms and instructions regarding the use of existing learning resources.

We are compiling a list of students who may require a device to support learning from home so that all students are able to access learning during a possible period of school closure. We will be trialling this style of learning with our students over the coming weeks to ensure our readiness to 'hit the ground running' should the need arise.

With regards to assessment, we will work closely with NZQA to ensure that no student is penalised.

Thank you for your support and understanding in this unprecedented situation.

Sincerely



Russell Gordon
Principal