

COVID-19 UPDATE

Hello Everyone

On Saturday the Prime Minister announced that New Zealand has moved to Alert Level 2 – *Reduced contact for COVID-19*. This means that those over seventy year of age and those with compromised immunity and certain medical conditions are now asked to stay at home, isolate, and avoid any non-essential travel.

At this Alert Level schools remain open and we plan to do so however for us this means that:

- Children who live with their grandparents are asked to stay home and to isolate. This is our call and not part of the official advice but it is made with the thought that it is better to isolate now before the virus hits us rather than wait and run the risk of children transmitting the virus to their vulnerable and main caregiver.
- Families should consider their broader situation before sending children to school. This means thinking about the at-risk people in their whanau and the affect that contracting the virus would have on them. People in the category include, but are not limited to, those over seventy, close family members who have underlining medical conditions, those who are pregnant, and those recovering from recent or ongoing medical situations. In most cases we suggest that children stay home and isolate.
- We will continue to encourage and teach the core tenets of prevention including practicing high levels of personal hygiene, coughing into elbows where possible, social distancing. You should do this too whether your child is self-isolating or not.
- If advise is received from the Ministry of Health and/or Ministry of Education that there is a change in the Alert level then you will be advises as soon as practicable and all advise followed.
- We want to make it very clear that isolating means staying at home and limiting visitors to those who are absolutely necessary. It is not an additional holiday but rather it is at the most serious level of national emergencies. It would not be acceptable for example for children isolating to be outside the boundary of your property, at the beach (unless it is empty and social distancing is being practised), or visiting others. Travelling outside of the district is neither prudent or sensible at this time. Isolation only worked and will only minimise risks of transmission if everyone practises it. You are relied on to be sensible, consistent, vigilant and firm in this regard please.

Let's work together to keep everyone.

Diane Bates
Principal

BREAKING NEWS AT 1.40PM: All Schools will be closed as of midnight Wednesday 25th March 2020. Please keep your children at home. No one will be at school!