

Friday 20th March, 2020

COVID-19 Update

Kia ora koutou

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 received some of these updates last night from the Ministry of Education. We have been planning for different actions and we are in a position to respond quickly should we be asked to.

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, 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 student's learning. The government is also working to support this. Some of you will have seen this in the news.

We know COVID-19 feels scary and of course people are concerned for the wellbeing of our children. Please be assured that with no case confirmed in our school, your children are safe here and we are taking all practical steps we can for both your children and staff. We have attached a symptoms chart for your information.

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.

Further actions taken by the school:

Sports:

All the local leagues have put summer competitions on hold effective immediately. This includes: Water Polo, Volleyball, Summer Netball, Summer Hockey, Kiwi Tag. With this in mind, all school sports teams, games and practises have been put on hold until further notice.

This includes ALL Sports - No Exceptions.

With regards to Winter Sports, we are waiting to see how the situation unfolds to understand what the winter season will look like. As you can understand in such a rapidly evolving situation, we are unable to comment on how this might look. In the meantime if students haven't paid their winter fees, please don't do so until we have certainty as to whether the season is going ahead. If you have paid your fees, don't panic, if the season is cancelled you will get a full refund. In the meantime there will be no practises or further trials for any team.

As far as the AIMS Games are concerned, in keeping with the school stance on no sporting activity, we will delay running trials at this time. If you have any questions please contact Jo Dey on jdey@otuinterschool.nz

School Trips, Gatherings and Camps

All class trips have been cancelled or postponed until further notice. Assemblies have been stopped and we are minimising student gatherings. We will make a decision about camps and outdoor education activities closer to their scheduled time.

Here are two links for those who wish to read more:

- **Ministry of Education -**
<http://www.education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>
- **Ministry of Health -**
https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR2_pyB9aGj2uOmQD1UeXFQ4YoR2B0sFuKAS9ggoXt0IR35gSk_vkpxrgYk

Kia kaha,

Henk Popping
PRINCIPAL