

Friday 20th March, 2020

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 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, 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.

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.

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.

When is sick, sick?

The messaging remains clear – that **if you are feeling unwell please stay home, and the same goes for children and young people.** However at the tail end of a cold, there will be runny noses and probably some coughing. This might be worrying for some people who are being vigilant about their own and others' health.

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

Message from the BOT:

'Due to the Coronavirus/COVID - 19 the Ngutunui School Board of Trustees has made a decision to cancel a pending School Fundraising Event - Motor Cross on Sunday 29th March 2020.

This decision is based around eliminating risk and keeping our community safe. We also have another significant School Fundraiser Event - Quiz and Auction night planned for Saturday 16th May 2020 which will be postponed.'

Waterbottles

Please make sure your child brings their own named water bottle to school from Monday onwards as the drinking fountains will be switched off. This is a precaution. Thanking you.

Have a super weekend and remember if your child is sick keep them home. Thanks again for all your support.

Ngā mihi
Cleonie

Please read the attached article as we need to think of our children at this time. There is so much going on in the world we need to ensure our children are feeling safe.