

Principal Update 2

Friday March 20

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.






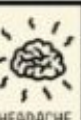


































- As soon as a case is confirmed in our immediate school community (e.g., a student, staff member, or member of their household), the Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Education will inform me about this, and we will work together to get quick and clear message out to you via our communication channels:
 - Facebook
 - Flexibuzz - make sure you have signed up for this
 - School website
 - Mass school wide email
- 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 and deep clean of the school to be undertaken.
- If our school does need to close temporarily, we are developing a plan to support students' learning. We have a staff meeting planned for Monday after which we hope to be able to share the outline of this learning plan with parents.






As an added precaution we have **cancelled swimming** for Team Totara and Team Kahikatea, effective from Monday next week.

We also suggest that parents of children who are highly at risk, e.g., have an immune deficiency, are prone to bad asthma or have severe underlying health issues **keep their students home**. Let us know when you have made this decision so we can code their absence accordingly. This is purely a precautionary measure. We have two and a half weeks until the term finishes; teachers will offer work that students can do at home in the meantime.

We ask again that you **do not send students to school if they are unwell**. As a precaution we will be sending any children home who are coughing. The chart below identifies key symptoms for Covid19, the flu and a cold. As you can see there are many symptoms in common across these three viruses.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, FLU AND COLD

	 DRY COUGH	 FEVER	 RUNNY NOSE	 SORE THROAT	 BREATHLESSNESS	 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

We know COVID-19 feels scary and of course people are concerned for the wellbeing of our children. We will continue to do all we can to maintain the safety of our students; where possible we will be proactive but in some cases we may be reactive as new information comes to light and we need to act quickly.

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.

Thank you for filling in the survey about access to technology in your homes. 65% of our parents completed this survey which gave us and the Ministry of Education some good information. We can report that:

- 98% of our families have access to unlimited data in their homes.
- 90% of families have access to devices that could be used for online learning.
- 61% of families would prefer a combination of online and paper learning activities.

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.

Ngā mihi

Toni Burnside