

17 March 2020

Tena koutou Parents/Caregivers:

Most of you will be aware that the World Health Organisation has now declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic. We have eight confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Zealand and all are recovering well. There were no new confirmed cases of Covid-19 coronavirus in New Zealand yesterday.

Please be aware of the large amount of “fake news” that is out there. Refer to the World Health Organisation or the New Zealand Ministry of Health for accurate and timely updates. At this point, New Zealand is requiring most people arriving here to self-isolate with a stern warning - follow the rules or be detained or deported.

Mass gatherings of more than 500 people have been banned; however, schools and universities working with the Education Ministry to stay open - for now. Nevertheless, we will be cancelling some field-trips, sporting events and EOTC opportunities. You will be contacted directly if your son/daughter is affected by these cancellations. This is a rapidly changing situation. Please be assured that we are working hard to ensure strong and timely communication.

I want to reassure you that the Director-General of Health, Dr Ashley Bloomfield, has indicated that the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low. To ensure we help keep it that way, the basis of our national response is not putting yourself or others at risk if you are unwell. This means not going to work/school or being out in public if you are sick. We all have a role to play in stopping further spreads.

We are reminding everybody to reduce the risk of getting an acute respiratory infection or passing it on to others:

- regularly washing hands (for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap and dry thoroughly)
- practicing cough etiquette (maintain distance, cough into your bent elbow if possible). Cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, dispose of tissues in a rubbish bin
- staying home if you are sick until you have recovered
- avoiding close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- if you feel unwell you should avoid public gatherings and events.

I will keep you well informed about any developments as we are made aware of them. In order to get information to our families in the fastest and most efficient manner possible, please ensure your parent/caregiver information is correct and up-to-date. Please check this information carefully on the KAMAR portal, and update it if necessary. You can also contact the student centre to update your details.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Amy Hacker
Principal/Tumuaki