

23 March 2020

Kia ora koutou

As I have indicated in my previous communications regarding the COVID-19 virus, I am committed to providing you, our school whānau, with timely and accurate information. On Saturday, our Prime Minister announced that the country has now moved to a Level 2 Alert. Under this level, there are several new measures being taken. Border control measures have been increased, more restrictions have been put on mass gatherings, citizens are being asked to limit non-essential travel around the country, and vulnerable people, including those over 70, have been asked to stay at home. Schools are to remain open at this point. However, that could change as the situation evolves or we move to a higher Alert Level.

I want to share with you what will happen if we were to have a case of COVID-19 in our school community. I want to reassure you that we have been planning for this and are able to respond quickly, should the need arise.

- 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.
- In the event of a confirmed case 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 extensive cleaning of the school to be undertaken.
- If Paeroa College were to close temporarily, students will continue their learning from home or some other location. Teachers and other staff would support remote learning and may be based at the school or other locations. Most remote learning would take place via the internet. If internet access is challenging for your child, please ensure the school is aware of this ahead of time, so that we can provide hard copies of learning materials.

I acknowledge that these are challenging times and of course we are all concerned for the wellbeing of our children and our greater community. Please be assured that we have no cases of COVID-19 at Paeroa College and that I am actively working to safeguard your children's health.

I continue to stress that if your child is unwell, they stay at home. Here at school, we are practicing physical distancing and frequent handwashing. I am reinforcing this regularly with all students and staff as good hygiene is still the best thing that we can all do to prevent illness.

The Board of Trustees and I are getting the most up to date advice and guidance from The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education so that we can confidently make informed decisions about the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

Ngā mihi nui,

Amy Hacker
Principal/Tumuaki