

RE: COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

PAEROA COLLEGE CLOSED EFFECTIVE TUESDAY

Kia ora Parents/Caregivers:

I would like to begin with how much I value you, your children and this community. As you will be aware, in New Zealand, Covid-19 cases have increased to over 100 in the past 24 hours. Community transmission now appears likely. At 1:45PM today, our Prime Minister announced the move from Level 2 Alert to a Level 3 Alert in regards to this pandemic. In approximately 48 hours, at 11:59PM Wednesday evening, we will move as a community and as a country to Level 4 Alert. The virus is moving quickly and all measures need to be taken to slow its spread.

As a result of this heightened alert level, **school will be closed** tomorrow and Wednesday with the exception of the children of essential workers. It will be **closed for everyone from Thursday** for a period of 4 weeks as advised by the Prime Minister. I will keep you informed through our website and Facebook with frequent updates. Please ensure you are checking these regularly.

School holidays are being brought forward so that they are completed within the 4 week period. Holidays will now be from Monday 30 March to Tuesday 14 April inclusive (a reminder that the Tuesday after Easter Monday is always a closed day for schools). At the end of the school holidays, schools will be open for distance learning but will not physically open for staff to work at the schools. Please note the instruction to stay home (Alert Level 4) will continue beyond the new school holiday period but schools will be open for distance instruction. Teachers will be working offsite.

With today's announcement, we are implementing with urgency our plan to support your child's learning from home. We are sure you are all more than aware that our current situation has come swiftly and we are having to respond to an ever-changing situation. Fortunately, over the last two weeks we have done significant mahi in preparation to deliver learning online, should it be required.

Here is what you can expect over the next week prior to the new start of the school holidays, and for as long as we are engaged in remote learning:

- Teachers will focus on keeping up connections and relationships with students and keeping them engaged in learning - that's what actually matters the most.
- For any classes scheduled to meet on the day, the day's work will be available online from 10.30am
- Students should check their school emails daily and use the Google Classroom or Hapara Workspace established by their teacher to complete learning tasks.

- Students in Years 11-13 who are sitting NCEA should continue to work on assessment as provided by their teachers but should not stress. NZQA has already provided guidance on this and students will not be disadvantaged by this school closure.
- If the online learning is causing undue stress in your house or you have other important stuff happening then move it down the priority list! Don't give up on it though, learning is important!
- We are well aware that online learning may be challenging for some members of our community. Please email or phone the school on Tuesday if you require hard copies of materials for your child. We will arrange for you to collect these or for them to be delivered to your address.

This is an unprecedented situation for us all. Rest assured we are doing the very best we can. Your child will be looking to you for guidance about the government's decision. Parents, caregivers, whānau and teachers will have a particularly important part to play in reassuring our young people at this time. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to read the information put together by the Ministry of Education to support your conversations with your rangitahi – [Talking to children about COVID-19](#)

As noted by the Prime Minister these restrictions are our best chance to slow the virus in New Zealand and to save lives. Mahi Tahi Kia Kaha.

We will continue to communicate with you over the coming days and weeks. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school staff and school community.

Ngā mihi nui

Amy Hacker
Principal/Tumuaki