



'Growing in Faith
Together'

21 March 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers

COVID-19 Update - 21 March 2020

With the [announcement](#) that New Zealand has moved to [Alert Level 2 – Reduce Contact](#) for COVID-19, people over 70 years of age and those with compromised immunity and certain existing medical conditions are asked to remain at home as much as they can from now on and avoid any non-essential travel.

There are children in our school with *existing health issues* and I know you will be feeling anxious and vulnerable.

The Ministry of Education is asking families in schools to follow the above advice. Children who fall into the health categories below will need to isolate and continue to access the school curriculum or other school activities from home.

Please let me know before Monday morning whether your child falls into any of these categories and what their health condition is, as I need this information to help us plan going forward. You are welcome to give me a call - 021 1130400 if you prefer to have a chat with me.

Children who are more vulnerable to COVID-19 fall into the categories below:

- chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
- chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
- chronic kidney disease
- chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
- chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
- diabetes
- problems with your spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed
- a weakened immune system as the result of conditions, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
- being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)

Children living with those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 elderly people with an underlying health condition listed below (ie anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
- those who are pregnant

These families are asked to keep their child at home to reduce the risk to your family.

At this point in time schools are to remain open for instruction and we will be open on Monday. The Ministry of Health will contact me should they wish the school to be closed. This would occur if there was a confirmed Covid-19 case of a student or a staff member of our school. Only the Ministry of Health can close our school. Neither myself or our Board have the authority to close our school.

Please keep each other, our families and friends and our school community in our prayers over the coming weeks and months.

Kia Kaha

Gina Benade
Principal

New Zealand COVID-19 Alert Levels			Unite against COVID-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These alert levels specify the public health and social measures to be taken. The measures may be updated on the basis of (i) new scientific knowledge about COVID-19 and (ii) information about the effectiveness of intervention measures in New Zealand and elsewhere. The alert levels may be applied at a town, city, territorial local authority, regional or national level. Different parts of the country may be at different alert levels. We can move up and down alert levels. In general, the alert levels are cumulative, e.g. Level 1 is a base 4-level response. Always prepare for the next level. At all levels, health services, emergency services, utilities and goods transport, and other essential services, operations and staff, are expected to remain up and running. Employers in those sectors must continue to meet their health and safety obligations. 			
LEVEL	RISK ASSESSMENT	RANGE OF MEASURES (can be applied locally or nationally)	
Level 4 - Eliminate Likely that disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustained and intensive transmission Widespread outbreaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People instructed to stay at home Educational facilities closed Businesses closed except for essential services (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics) and lifeline utilities Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities Travel severely limited Major reprioritisation of healthcare services 	
Level 3 - Restrict Heightened risk that disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community transmission occurring OR Multiple clusters break out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel in areas with clusters or community transmission limited Affected educational facilities closed Mass gatherings cancelled Public venues closed (e.g. libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, amusement parks) Alternative ways of working required and some non-essential businesses should close Non face-to-face primary care consultations Non acute (if active) services and procedures in hospitals deferred and healthcare staff reprioritised 	
Level 2 - Reduce Disease is contained, but risks of community transmission growing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High risk of importing COVID-19 OR Increase in imported cases OR Increase in household transmission OR Single or isolated cluster outbreak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry border measures maximised Further restrictions on mass gatherings Physical distancing on public transport (e.g. leave the seat next to you empty if you can) Limit non-essential travel around New Zealand Employers start alternative ways of working if possible (e.g. remote working, shift-based working, physical distancing within the workplace, staggering meal breaks, flexible leave arrangements) Business continuity plans activated High-risk people advised to remain at home (e.g. those over 70 or those with other existing medical conditions) 	
Level 1 - Prepare Disease is contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heightened risk of importing COVID-19 OR Sporadic imported cases OR Isolated household transmission associated with imported cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border entry measures to minimise risk of importing COVID-19 cases applied Contact tracing Stringent self-isolation and quarantine Intensive testing for COVID-19 Physical distancing encouraged Mass gatherings over 500 cancelled Stay home if you're sick, report flu-like symptoms Wash and dry hands, cough into elbow, don't touch your face 	