



**19 March 2020**

**Kia Ora our school community**

**Dear Parents / Caregivers**

**COVID-19 SCHOOL UPDATE**

We are committed to supporting you during the rapidly evolving COVID-19 ('Coronavirus') situation. We're taking our guidance from the Ministry of Health to protect our students, staff and you as parents.

We would like to assure you below that we are doing all we can to manage a healthy school for you.

Our primary job is to keep regular school going day in day out, doing the basics well and for it to be a place free from untested opinions and often unhelpful rhetoric of social media. Since January 24, we have kept the main thing the main thing. We are not in fear and we are in support of what the Ministry of Health as our primary source of information, are saying and we do all we can to follow their instructions. We know you can get all you need from the media. But the caution is, not all of it is true or indeed helpful.

I would like to reinforce the measures we have taken and are taking.

1. Since January 24, we have insisted that all returning travellers, isolate themselves, not just from China but from any country. Our actions have proven to be the right ones.
2. In the first two weeks of school 135 students stayed away along with 5 staff as they worked through their 14 day isolation.
3. I believe we have done well to provide a healthy environment for the past 6 weeks and we are still doing this today.
4. As we are doing, we remind families to take all the necessary precautions
5. All staff, students should regular wash hands (twice happy birthday) through the day as appropriate.
6. All visitors are required to use the sanitiser provided when they arrive at our receptions
7. We note that we are in change of seasons anyway which often produces colds, the odd cough and general sniffles...so we have shared the picture below to help
8. We have a current pandemic plan which mirrors what the government is using. You can be assured that we are enacting it as required.
9. As part of the pandemic planning – we have met with the Property Hub who provide our cleaning services. Extra measures have been put in place to ensure all surfaces are cleaned regularly.
10. Specialist cleaning product provided for the cleaning of all surfaces in teaching spaces. Gloves and disposable cloths used
11. Every staff member taking responsibility for their work area to ensure the extra cleaning measures are given priority
12. All teaching spaces wiped down by the teacher at the end of the school day. This will include your desk or table tops and door handles.
13. Administration areas and medical rooms are to be the responsibility of the admin team.

14. Student bathroom facilities are provided with sanitiser and soap.
15. We have cancelled a number of trips but not all.
16. We will cancel more trips and camps depending on how the virus tracks and the nature of each trip and camp.
17. We have completed testing for online assemblies when we need to move to that...it works well at our Mt Albert Campus so far.
18. We are daily sending work to China to enable 15 of our international students to continue their studies. We are already \$250k down on international income and it is creating pressure.
19. Regarding possible school closures:
  - a. this will be out of our hands but we are ready to operate on line as much as possible.
  - b. For our NCEA students, we are receiving regular communication from NZQA on delivery of programmes and internal assessments.
  - c. Staff have met to assess our capability to deliver on line curriculum should schools close. We have reported our findings to the MOE and they have given us the thumbs up. It won't be school as we know it but it is a wonderful opportunity for us to explore further innovation and we are committed to this. Offline material and folders will also be available for use at home.
  - d. We have started a COVID-19 Continuity Response Plan.
  - e. PL sessions are being restructured to provide instruction on how to deliver curriculum online.
  - f. 'COVID-19 School closures' has provided us with an ideal opportunity to develop our skills in online delivery, constructing learning activities that can be used online again and again etc.....
  - g. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/120331175/coronavirus-no-scientific-reason-for-school-closures-education-minister-says>
20. This should have reached all parents from us on 17 March: [https://schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/special-report-coronavirus](https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus)
21. We are sending this link to you :<https://www.facebook.com/chrishipkinsmp/videos/1240986009428590/>

Psalm 27:13-14 (NIV)

**13** I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. **14** Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Nga mihi

Murray Burton MNZM and Chris Bethwaite  
Principal and Board Chair