

Corona Virus Update - latest information from Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education

Kia ora koutou,

You will have seen the Prime Minister has announced that the first case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in New Zealand.

This case was identified because the person and the family affected did the right thing and got in touch with health authorities.

The patient confirmed with COVID-19 is being treated in Auckland City Hospital. They are in an improving condition in isolation, in a negative pressure room to prevent any spread of the disease.

This is a good wake up call. New Zealand has been free of the virus to date, but we knew that would not last.

What is still important is that we are all careful and observe basic health safety and encourage our students to do the following:

Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence:

- o wash your hands often with soap and water before and after eating as well as after attending the toilet
- o cover coughs and sneezes with clean tissues or your elbow
- o put used tissues in the bin

Any staff or student feeling unwell, please stay home. Anyone concerned that they or someone close to them is showing symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath, can ring Healthline (0800 358 5453) or contact their GP by phoning ahead of their visit to explain symptoms and travel history. Take care of yourself, your whanau and your community through these measures.

We are still focused on 'keeping it out, and now stomping it out' through track, trace and contain measures. It's still important we all continue to be alert but not alarmed.

Updated information from Health Ministry

As announced this week by the Ministry of Health, there are now two categories for travellers arriving in New Zealand:

- **Category 1** – People who have travelled from or transited through countries in category one in the last 14 days are required to self-isolate for 14 days

and contact Healthline after they have left the countries. **Mainland China and Iran are the two countries included in this category (with Iran added to this category on Friday 28 February).**

- **Category 2** – People who have travelled from or via countries lists in category two who develop symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath should seek medical advice by first phoning Healthline’s dedicated COVID-19 number 0800 358 5453 or contacting their GP including phoning ahead of their visit.

As at Friday 28 February **countries in this category are Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand.**

Anyone who has travelled from or transited through any of the countries listed in both categories with clinically compatible symptoms should be considered a suspect of COVID-19 case and testing performed.

For any children, students or staff who have recently returned from Iran or China, they will need to go into a stay away period of 14 days (from when they left Iran or China).

The school is following Ministry of Health and Education guidelines and working closely with its pandemic plan/committee.

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Walker
Principal
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