

23 March 2020  
Covid 19 update:

Kia Ora Koutou,

The school has now been informed by Public Health that we currently have two students who are in isolation at home. One had contact with a COVID-19 case and the Ministry of Health is waiting for test results to be sure she does not have the infection. Regardless of results she will stay in isolation for a further week. The other student had household contact with the first student, and will stay in isolation as a precaution until we know the result of the swab test.

If the swab result is positive for COVID-19, an outcome Public Health currently considers unlikely, they will be in immediate contact with the school to put further measures in place. In the meantime no isolation measures are required at the school, other than what is already in place for the two students.

We realize these are worrying times for everyone. We continue to follow Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health guidelines. We need to remain calm and our key messaging to our young people revolves around:

1. Take positive action such as good hand washing hygiene
2. If we follow our plans most people are going to be fine
3. Remind each other about social distancing protocols
4. Talk about Covid-19 in ways that help keep it in perspective and to offset media hype
5. If staff or students feel unwell or health compromised; stay home

In discussion with the Ministry of Education, we have been reminded that decisions regarding closing the school remain with the Ministry of Health. Therefore, at this time our school remains open and classes are operating. We are now aware that with some school bus routes cancelled until further notice and some students remaining at home due to health concerns that you will be concerned about your daughter continuing with her learning programme.

We have plans in place to teach our classes online and remotely but as teachers are busy still teaching their classes, it makes it very difficult for them to set individual work for those self-isolating at home. Many of our classes already offer Google Classroom so please make use of this to keep in touch with the work if you can. Students are also encouraged to review their notes to consolidate learning thus far. We will receive further information from NZQA regarding NCEA assessments and Covid 19. We ask for your patience and consideration as we move into more online teaching. At this stage, everyone's health and wellbeing takes precedence over the school's assessment and teaching programme. Our focus remains on keeping you and your family well and informed. We will be in touch soon with further information.

Tracy Walker  
Principal

