

COVID-19: Important information

Monday 16 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As information is supplied to us from the Ministry of Education, we believe it is important to pass it on to you. As you are aware, in relation to COVID-19 we take our lead from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and local Medical Officers.

What is happening with Covid-19 is changing daily, our aim is to be vigilant to ensure the safety of everyone. You will be aware that there is now a compulsory 14 day isolation for those returning from overseas. At Stratford Primary School our expectation is that this self isolation is for anyone returning to school from any overseas trips from this point forward. In addition, if your children, a family member or yourself have recently returned from overseas or have come into contact with someone who has recently returned home from overseas please inform the school office as soon as possible.

Prevention, education, and information remain a priority for us. Our students, our staff and our community have a very large role in preventing the spread of COVID-19 through:

- Awareness - know the symptoms (**a cough, a high temperature (at least 38°C), shortness of breath**)
- Vigilance - keep children at home if they are ill
- Good hygiene - hand washing and drying, good cough and sneeze etiquette will all help prevent spread of a range of ills as we move into cold and flu season

If your child is anxious/worried about the virus, this link [Talking to children about coronavirus](#) gives some guidelines about how you might support your child. At all times we believe it is about being aware and speaking honestly. In addition there is a good video clip from Nanogirl that will help your children to better understand the virus - [YouTube clip - Nanogirl](#)

If there are any changes we will inform you as soon as practically possible.

Other important updates:

1. As a precautionary measure, **Whanau Day (including the book fair) will be postponed** to a later date in the year. This is because we would have had 500+ people on the school site.
2. School events: At this stage, the Year 5/6 camp will still go ahead as planned.
3. Extra hand soap, tissues etc have been purchased. There will be regular checks of the toilet areas to ensure students have enough hand soap. Teachers will educate students on how to wash hands and use good hygiene as stated above. **Parents are asked to educate their children around safe hygiene.**
4. **Sickness:** If students come to school with any of the symptoms they will be sent home. Any students showing general flu symptoms will also be sent home as a precautionary measure. Please do not send children to school if they are unwell and remember to notify the school office for any absence.

With COVID-19 (Coronavirus) let us continue to work together, be alert but not alarmed, and let us keep each other safe.

Kind regards
Jason Elder
Principal
Stratford Primary School

Please see below for the actual links that you should be able to search for in your website browser.

Talking to children about coronavirus:

<https://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>

YouTube clip - Nanogirl

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyTQ5-SQYTo>