

Coronavirus: Important information

Friday 31 January 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As you may have seen in the media the situation is rapidly evolving internationally concerning the coronavirus.

This is a new virus and its specific nature is currently unclear, however it appears that you can have the virus at an early stage and not be showing any symptoms. This incubation period is currently considered to be 14 days. Children and young people are currently returning to classrooms with the health of students and staff a priority.

The following is some useful information from the Ministry of Education:

- Symptoms of coronavirus (2019-nCoV) are similar to a range of other illnesses, such as influenza, and do not necessarily mean that you have 2019-nCoV. Symptoms include fever, coughing and difficulty breathing. Difficulty breathing is a sign of possible pneumonia and requires immediate medical attention.
- As always, anyone who is unwell should not be at school. Should caregivers have a particular concern about any person in their family, please contact Healthline at 0800 611 116 or your GP for medical advice. Healthline has translators and interpreters available 24/7 in 150 languages and they do have Mandarin and Cantonese speaking staff available.
- If a student still attends school while showing symptoms, the Principal can preclude them if they believe on reasonable grounds they may have a communicable disease (Section 19 Education Act). The student has to stay away for the infectious period of the specific disease. Principals can request that a student with an infectious disease or is suspected of having an infectious disease, does not attend. Principals can also request that a staff member with an infectious disease or is suspected of having an infectious disease, does not attend.
- For any student or staff member who may be at high risk of exposure because they have recently been to China, or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with the virus, Principals are encouraged to ask that the staff member or parent/caregiver of the student delay the start of their school year for 14 days and voluntarily stay away.
- There are no cases of 2019-nCoV in New Zealand to date. The risk of an outbreak in New Zealand is low, but the Ministry of Health is monitoring the situation closely.

If any flu-like symptoms are present or a student or staff member is at high risk because they have recently been to China, or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with the virus, I respectfully ask that the student not attend school as per the information provided above.

Kind regards

Jason Elder

Principal

Stratford Primary School