



STRATFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL
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23 March 2020

Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Announcement from the Prime Minister

*We are at **Alert Level 3 nationwide.***

*After 48 hours, the time required to ensure essential services are in place, we will **move to Level 4.***

***Supermarkets, doctors, pharmacies, service stations, access to essential banking services will all be available** throughout New Zealand at every alert level. If you do not have immediate needs, do not go to the supermarket. It will be there for you today, tomorrow, and the day after that. We must give time for supermarkets to restock their shelves, there will be enough for everyone if we shop normally.*

In the meantime, we will be working through practices like those used overseas to make sure that social distancing is maintained at supermarkets when people are undertaking essential shops.

***Non-essential businesses in New Zealand must now close.** All bars, restaurants, cafes, gyms, cinemas, pools, museums, libraries, playgrounds and any other place where the public congregate must close their face to face function.*

*Over the next 48 hours as we move to Level 4, **takeaway services must move to close their operations.***

All indoor and outdoor events cannot proceed.

*In short: **we are all now preparing to go into self isolation as a nation.** Just as you've seen with other countries.*

Schools will be closed from tomorrow, except to the children of essential workers such as our doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and police – this will give them time to plan. This will be temporary, and schools will close entirely from midnight Wednesday.

The school term break will be brought forward. For the remainder of this week and through the term break schools will establish ways to deliver teaching online and remotely. All students across the country are currently being given information on this decision for their parents, including the list of who is considered an essential service. This will be communicated directly to parents.

