



20/3/2020

As you are aware the situation around COVID-19 is rapidly evolving. The Government announced last weekend that all arrivals from overseas to self-isolate. This will strongly contribute to “smoothing the curve” in regards to the number of cases we do get in New Zealand.

It is important to note we continue to have no confirmed cases in our school. The policy decisions being made by the Government give us time to plan for future scenarios. The most likely scenario is if a student or staff member is confirmed with COVID-19, the Ministry of Health and Department of Education may require school to close for a few days to undertake tracking and tracing of close contacts. A reminder that ‘close contact’ is generally described as someone who was in near proximity (1.5 metres) of a person confirmed with the virus for 15 or more minutes. For those with compromised immunity that is 2 metres.

Events

As with all our activities, we take a risk assessment approach for key activities such as swimming lessons, day trips etc. Health and Safety is paramount when providing opportunities for positive experiences for our children. The A.C baths is open for swimming lessons and we have assessed this as a low risk for our children.

School Procedures

We take this virus very seriously at Rangitaiki School and have made some changes to daily school procedures to make our learning environment as hygienic as possible for our staff and children.

- * We are now using Janola to thoroughly disinfecting areas after cleaning them. (Janola has a high percentage of hypochlorite, which is needed to be effective.)
- * The school has enough masks and hand sanitizer for all staff and students.
- * Children are encouraged to use the hand sanitizer and wash hands often.
- * COVID- 19 posters and hand sanitizer are placed all over the school for visitors and students to use.
- * Students are taught the danger of sharing anything and to avoid touching their face with unwashed hands. They are taught coughing etiquette and to keep some distance from their peers.
- * Children encouraged to bring their own drink bottles to school.
- * Teachers are kept up to date with reliable information from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

What can you do?

- * Be vigilant about your own health and the health of your children
- * Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dry thoroughly
- * Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- * Avoid sharing anything that has come in to contact with saliva, whether in your living or social environments
- * Stay home when you are sick and seek medical attention
- * Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the rubbish
- * Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system

If you want to know more about COVID-19 please make sure that any reading you are doing is from a reliable source. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education is the best source of information for New Zealand and they update this information regularly. These are linked below.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

<http://www.education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>

For children that get high anxiety watch this Facebook link from Nathan Wallis.

<https://www.facebook.com/nathan.wallis.969/videos/2585374401710171/UzpfSTY4NDMwMDQzNDkyMDc1MTozMzcxMTQ5NDgyOTAyNDg2/>