



03 March 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The New Zealand government has stepped up its pandemic response plans in relation to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). This means that the situation overseas has changed and New Zealand's borders are tightening in an attempt to stop the virus spreading further.

Our own pandemic plans mean that we have systems in place to help us cope if anything changes. The Senior Leadership Team and Board of Trustees are continuously reviewing our Pandemic Plan to ensure we are well equipped and up to date. We will follow all Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health advice if an outbreak were to happen.

The most important thing you can do as parents and caregivers is reinforce key hygiene and health messages including:

- ★ Teaching your child the importance of hand washing and drying
- ★ Teaching your child to cough or sneeze into their elbow or into a tissue
- ★ Staying home if you are unwell

We need to be alert and realise that this virus could turn up in our community. Good attendance is always encouraged, however, should your child be displaying cold/virus like symptoms they need to be at home. If it is possible your child has the virus, or has come into contact with someone with the virus, the incubation period is 14 days. If you have any concerns about COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) you can call Healthline (for free) or a new dedicated number specifically for the virus 0800 358 5453.

We will be reminding students about hygiene practices as well as ensuring we continue to provide clean learning environments for students. Should an outbreak occur and the school need to close, staff will continue to provide learning via online platforms.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact the office and make a time to come and have a chat about any of the above.

Nga mihi nui,  
Hinuera School Staff