

Kia ora koutou

With so much information and misinformation swirling around about COVID-19, I wanted to share with you why a school would close. (this information is directly from the Secretary of Education)

Schools are currently considered safe places and will be kept so, as Medical Officers of Health do have the authority to close a school if there was a medical reason to do so. Below is outlined what would happen to keep children safe.

- If a case is confirmed in our immediate school community (eg. a student, staff member, or member of their household), the Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Education will inform me about this, and we will work together to get quick and clear messaging out to you. (We have been planning for this)
- If there was a case confirmed of someone in our school, we will likely be asked to close temporarily by the Medical Officer of Health. This will allow time for close contacts to be traced, appropriate testing to be undertaken, and a careful clean of the school to be undertaken
- If our school does need to close temporarily, we will have a plan in place to support student's learning.

We know COVID-19 feels scary and of course people are concerned for the wellbeing of our children. Please be assured that with no case confirmed in our school, your children are safe here.

Good hygiene is a priority at our school, and we are reinforcing this regularly with all students and staff. We know that practicing good hygiene is still the best thing we can all do to prevent illness.

We are getting the most up to date advice and guidance so that we can confidently make informed decisions about the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

Ngā mihi

Kay
Principal.

When is sick, sick?

The messaging remains clear - that if you are feeling unwell please stay home, and the same goes for children and young people. However at the tail end of a cold, there will be runny noses and probably some coughing. This might be worrying for some people who are being vigilant about their own and others' health.

A diagram developed by Dr Siouxsie Wiles has been sent to us by the Ministry of Education. This is helpful when considering symptoms..

What it tells us is:

- A dry cough and a high temperature are common to both flu and COVID-19
- Sneezing is not a symptom of COVID-19, however if someone has COVID-19, then sneezing can spread droplets containing the virus

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, FLU AND COLD

	DRY COUGH	FEVER	RUNNY NOSE	SORE THROAT	BREATH-LESSNESS	HEADACHE	BODY ACHES	SNEEZE	FATIGUE	DIARRHOEA
COVID -19	FREQUENTLY	FREQUENTLY	RARE	SOMETIMES	SOMETIMES	SOMETIMES	SOMETIMES	NOT	SOMETIMES	RARE
FLU	FREQUENTLY	FREQUENTLY	SOMETIMES	SOMETIMES	NOT	FREQUENTLY	FREQUENTLY	NOT	FREQUENTLY	SOMETIMES
COLD	FREQUENTLY	RARE	FREQUENTLY	FREQUENTLY	NOT	RARE	FREQUENTLY	FREQUENTLY	SOMETIMES	NOT

FREQUENTLY
SOMETIMES
LITTLE
RARE
NOT