

Rakaia School Update: Kia ora koutou

With so much information and misinformation swirling around about COVID-19, I wanted to share with you what will happen if we were to have a case in our school community. We have been planning for this and are in a position to respond quickly.



- As soon as 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
- 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 have a plan in place to support student's learning but it mostly revolves around your internet access. We would be encouraging the use of Pobble365.com for writing, reading at home to be monitored and encouraged as well as looking at a study ladder account to support maths. Teachers would post information and activities for those with google accounts.

We know COVID-19 feels scary and of course, people are concerned about 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.

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 has been developed by Dr Siouxsie Wiles to assist you when considering symptoms (sent to us by a teacher who found it useful). 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 ACES	SNEEZE	FATIGUE	DIARRHOEA
COVID -19										
FLU										
COLD										

FREQUENTLY
 SOMETIMES
 LITTLE
 RARE
 NOT

@SIOUXSIEW @XTOTL thespinoff.co.nz

SOURCE: WHO, CDC CC-BY-SA

A few families have made decisions to have children away from school because they have family members with low immunity. We understand and support these families with their decisions.

Bus drivers are another element of the school that has concerns. The bus is almost like an incubator so if there are sick children getting on the bus please do not be offended if the driver asks you to take your child home. You can deliver them to school to have a consultation with the Principal about their attendance.

Ngā mihi
Mark Ellis, Principal