

Dear Whānau

The Ministry of Education has released [advice for schools about Coronavirus](#), and the website is being updated as needed.

This is a new virus and its specific nature is currently unclear, however it appears that you can have the virus at an early stage and not be showing any symptoms. This incubation period is currently considered to be 14 days.

We have been encouraged to err on the side of caution and here are some steps the ministry suggests:

- As always anyone who is unwell should not be at school. If we have a particular concern about any child, we will contact the whānau immediately to collect their children. We urge you to contact Healthline at **0800 611 116** or your GP for medical advice.
- If a child still attends school while showing symptoms the Principal of a state school can preclude them if they believe on reasonable grounds they may have a communicable disease (Section 19 Education Act). The child has to stay away for the infectious period of the specific disease.
- For children who may be at high risk of exposure because they have recently been to China or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with the virus, we encourage you to delay the start of their school year for 14 days and voluntarily stay away.
- All of the above applies to staff and adults in our community.

You can also check for updates on the [Ministry of Health website](#).

Ngā mihi nui

Robyn Brown

Principal