



Heriot School

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Monday 16 March 2020

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the School

After the travel ban events of the weekend, I felt it was important to address Coronavirus at our school level. I want to assure you that our priority is ensuring the safety of your children and of our school community.

For comprehensive information about COVID-19 you can visit the Ministry of Health website;

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

The Ministry of Education receives advice from, and is guided by, the Ministry of Health and the above website is updated regularly with current information regarding COVID-19.

Over the coming weeks it is important to take steps to prevent the spread of the virus. If your child is unwell please keep them at home. COVID-19 Coronavirus is a notifiable disease. This means that, as a school, we can request that a student and/or staff member stay away from school if they are unwell. If you or anyone in your family are unwell then please stay away from school.

There is no suggestion that schools will close in the short term. The MOE are suggesting that like many schools in Asia and in Europe currently, that education may continue online (at home) if children and families are required to isolate or if there are forced closures.

We have spoken sensitively with our classes today and we will continue to reinforce safe practices here at school. If you have any questions or concerns about this matter then please contact me.

However, it is still business as usual for us this week. We have the South Otago Triathlon tomorrow as well as a BOT meeting. On Thursday we have a PTA meeting at school and then Sports Activator on Friday. Remember that it is a long weekend with school closed on Monday for Otago Anniversary Day. Thank you.

Colin McHutchon
Tumuaki/Principal