

Reefton Area School

Takatū-ana te ako ā-mate-noa. Engage in life long learning.

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Reefton

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Principal
Wayne Wright

W. Wright
Principal

March 20 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We thought it would be timely for us to update you with information regarding COVID-19 and how it may affect our school.

First and foremost we have daily updates and advice coming through to us from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. The quality of this information has been excellent. It is our intention to follow this advice without exception.

With so much information and misinformation swirling around about COVID-19, We 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 (e.g. a student, staff member, or member of their household), the Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Education will inform us 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.

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.

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.

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A diagram has been developed by Dr Siouxsie Wiles to assist you 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										
FLU										
COLD										

 FREQUENTLY  SOMETIMES  LITTLE  RARE  NOT

@SIOUXSIEW @XTOTL thespinoff.co.nz

SOURCE: WHO, CDC CC-BY-SA

The following decisions have been made that effect our school:

- The Buller District Athletics Sports have been delayed until Term 4
- The Top of the South Area Schools' Tournament has been suspended.
- The National Tournament will not run until possibly the Term 3 holiday break
- All Trades Block Courses (Whenuaiti) have been postponed until Term 2.
- The Life Education Fundraiser on March 23 has been cancelled.
- The Canterbury Primary School's Swimming event has been postponed to August
- We are considering changes to grandparent reading.
- We are making some changes for our assemblies. If you are attending assembly we encourage you to "spread out" a little more than you usually do.

The importance of good hygiene can't be underestimated:

- **wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dry thoroughly**
- **avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands**
- **avoid sharing anything that has come in contact with saliva, whether in your living or social environments**
- **stay home when you are sick and seek medical attention**
- **cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the rubbish**
- **get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system.**

Kind regards
Wayne Wright - Principal

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