



Fairfield College

24 June 2020

Kia ora e te whaanau

The main purpose of this communication is to update you regarding the situation where three Fairfield College attended the funeral recently highlighted in the media, and which was attended by people who had broken their isolation conditions.

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12340672

This was communicated to you in a communication that I distributed on June 19.

Yesterday afternoon I received further information from the Ministry of Education that removed any doubts that parents may have had about the safety of their children regarding this particular situation:

We had an update from the Medical Officer stating that the Ministry of Health have confirmed that all 6 people who were granted exemptions to attend the funeral from isolation have tested negative for COVID-19.

He further stated: "There is therefore no risk that students from Fairfield College that attended the event were infected with COVID by these six exempted people, and therefore no risk the students are capable of infecting other persons at Fairfield College."

This situation highlights the new cases of COVID-19 that have been identified as New Zealanders return home. Testing for possible cases and those presenting with symptoms continues, with more than 340,000 people tested in New Zealand as at 22 June. It is therefore timely that we review our response in the very unlikely event that there was a confirmed or probable case that was linked to our school.

If there is a confirmed case at Fairfield College

The school would be advised by the Medical Officer of Health or the local public health authority (or local Ministry of Education staff working in conjunction with local health authorities). We would work with Ministry of Education staff and local health authorities to devise a plan. That will happen quickly and support will be provided to assist us to communicate with and support our school community.

Local health authorities through the Medical Officer of Health will make the decision about whether Fairfield College will need to close for a period of time, and will determine who is required to undertake self-isolation.



Be respectful
Be responsible
Be the best you can be

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Who needs to stay away?

Unless directed by the Medical Officer of Health, the only people who need to stay away are those who are:

- Unwell
- Self-isolating (at the request of health authorities)
- Waiting for COVID test results

Everyone else would be expected to be at school. Anyone who is a contact of a close contact is not required to self-isolate, Close-contacts are self-isolating as a precaution only, and will be monitored for symptoms.

For example - a staff member who had close contact with someone **confirmed** with COVID-19 will be asked by health authorities to self-isolate for 14 days from when they last had contact with the confirmed case. Their family members and other close contacts of the staff member are **not** required to self-isolate unless they have also had close contact with a confirmed case.

Please be assured that your children are safe at school and we continue to follow the advice that we receive from the Ministry of Health through the Ministry of Education regarding the management of Covid-19.

It is great to have our students back at school and we are working tirelessly to engage them purposefully in all aspects of their schooling. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries about the contents of this communication. Thank you for your continued support.

Naaku noa, naa



Richard Crawford
PRINCIPAL