



Fairfield College

16 March 2020

Kia ora e te Whaanau

The COVID-19 situation remains fluid and Fairfield College has initiated the following steps to reduce the possible spread of this virus.

What can FFC do to minimise the impacts of COVID 19 to our school community

On Saturday March 14 the government announced new international travel decisions that took effect almost immediately and with minimal notice. It is imperative that we revise how we are operating so that we are able to be more responsive to the directives that we receive at a national level.

What if the school was to be directed to close?

A challenge that we are facing is coordinating a response to the possibility of the school being directed to close. ***At this stage there has been no such directive given but it is prudent that we prepare for this possibility.*** It is important that we continue with our planning and implement strategies that will minimise the disruption to learning that would occur if a school closure was directed.

We have implemented the following steps:

- At a special meeting on Monday March 16 school leaders discuss strategies that we could implement for students to continue learning if the school was to close. An online learning platform through Google Classrooms is one possible approach?
- The school will also need to prepare for learners who have no access to the internet and/or a digital device.
- ***To prepare for continued learning staff will be engaged in planning and preparation on Friday March 20. This means that the school will be closed for instruction so that staff are able to prepare for the possibility of a school closure caused by COVID 19.***
- I apologise for the suddenness of this decision but it is imperative that we have the time to prepare for possible school closure.

The Board will make a decision to close the school as instructed by the Government through the MOE and/or MOH.

- Until further notice the school will no longer hold full school assemblies. The Honours Assembly that was planned on March 17 will be postponed until a later date.
- Year level and Mountain assemblies will continue in their allocated slots.

On a case by case basis:

- The school will be advised by the national and regional Sports bodies as to the cancellation of events and whether it is safe for our students to participate - our threshold level for safety may need to be higher in some cases and therefore a school decision may need to be made.
- We will review all EOTC - those trips where our students will come into contact with large groups of people as opposed to those trips that just involve our students.
- We ask families to let the school know if they intend to travel overseas or if they have already travelled overseas so that we may support students during their self-isolation period. Parents/Caregivers need to call the Main Office or send an email to brownl@faircol.school.nz



Be respectful
Be responsible
Be the best you can be

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To assist the school with communication and also continued learning we will be updating school records with a focus on: contact details, home internet access, and availability of a digital device to work on.

The Ministry of Health link provides the best source of information for COVID-19
<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

On this site the following statement is made: ***With continued vigilance the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low.***

Staff have been directed to stay away from school if they are showing signs of illness such as coughs and colds. I ask that you please do the same with your children. Colds and flus are common in schools and by staying away, seeking medical attention and practicing good hygiene, we can all keep any spread of illness to a minimum. The school will contact parents and caregivers to collect their child if they show signs of illness.

Please note that there is a dedicated healthline 0800 number for COVID-19 information and advice. The number is 0800 358 5453 (or for international SIMs +64 9 358 5453). It is free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. People calling that line will be able to talk with a member of the National Telehealth Service. They have access to interpreters.

You should call that dedicated number:

- to register if you have self-isolated yourself
- for any coronavirus health advice and information and any questions you have about coronavirus, self-isolation etc.

Healthline's main number is still the one to call for non-coronavirus health concerns – 0800 611 116.

It is important that you first seek advice through this number or from your Doctor. Please refrain from going directly to an Accident Emergency Centre without at least first calling the Healthline number (0800 358 5453) or for international SIMs +64 9 358 5453).

Please be assured that we will keep you updated as new information on this evolving situation becomes available from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

Thank you for your continued support.

Naaku noa, naa



Richard Crawford
PRINCIPAL