



Te Puna i Keteriki

# Moerewa School

## TE KARERE O TE KURA

16 March 2020

Kia ora Whanau

You may have seen that the World Health Organisation has now declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic. The Ministry of Health has been working through its pandemic plan since January. You will also know the Government has already implemented a range of measures to minimise the impacts to New Zealand. This includes border restrictions, a requirement to self-isolate on arrival in New Zealand and detailed contact tracing of any confirmed cases.

We have 8 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Zealand. Their children, four students at Auckland schools, continue to be well and show no symptoms. While we expect that more cases will arise, the Ministry of Health says that with continued vigilance the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low in New Zealand. We all have a role to play in this.

For our school, our pandemic plan is already being implemented. As part of our pandemic plan we have one staff member who has recently returned from overseas and who is self isolating for the next 2 weeks as well as 2 children who have been in contact with whanau who recently returned from overseas. These are just cautionary measures that we will continue to enforce as we try to keep everyone safe.

In the mean time we will continue to focus on good hygiene practices. Hand washing and good cough etiquette are very important tools in preventing the spread of illness including colds, flu and COVID-19.

The Prime Minister also advised that we should stop handshakes, hongi and hugging.

There is a good video clip from Nanogirl that will help your children to better understand the virus - [YouTube clip - Nanogirl](#)

You may have also seen the Prime Minister sat down with Dr Michelle Dickinson (aka Nanogirl) and the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, Juliet Gerrard, to talk about coronavirus:

- [Watch on the PM's Facebook page](#)
- [Read and watch on the Newshub website](#)

One other action we can all take is to be vigilant about our own health and the health of our children. I will be encouraging my staff 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. Don't forget to let know why your children are away. 0800 MOEREWA or txt 021 082 314 76

If you have concerns Call **Healthline** free on 0800 611 116 for health advice and information.

Ngā mihi