



Tenā Koutou Kātoa

You will be aware that the first case of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has been confirmed in New Zealand, and the likelihood of a widespread outbreak is measured at low-moderate.

At all times Merrilands is taking advice from both the Ministry of Education and The Ministry of Health. Please note at this stage it is business as usual at school, with trips and visits still going as scheduled, and everything else related to school continuing with no impact.

The Ministry of Health, as of 28 February 2020, has identified the following countries as Category 1 and 2. Anyone who has visited those countries in the previous 14 days who develops symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath should seek medical advice by first phoning Healthline's dedicated COVID-19 number 0800358 5453 or contacting their GP.

Category 1

- Mainland China
- Iran

Category 2

- Hong Kong
- Italy
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Singapore
- Thailand

To help manage our health and wellbeing, we have gone over the information below as a staff and at all times we advocate the good practice of:

- Regularly washing hands (for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap and dry thoroughly. There is hand sanitizer available in classrooms and soap in all bathrooms.
- Covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze
- Staying home if you are sick
- Avoiding close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- If you feel unwell you should avoid public gatherings and events
- Cleaning surfaces regularly (if infection is suspected)

If your child is unwell, please err on the side of caution and keep them at home. If you are worried or just 'not sure' please contact your GP or ring the hotline 0800 358 545.

Let's all work together, be alert but not alarmed, let's keep each other safe, and take care of our whanau, and our community.

Michelle Cronin
Principal
Merrilands School