



Sunday 22 March

Covid-19 Update:

With the announcement that New Zealand has moved to Alert Level 2 – Reduce Contact for COVID-19, people over 70 years of age and those with compromised immunity and certain existing medical conditions are encouraged to remain at home as much as they can from now on. Any non-essential travel is to be avoided.

Staff, children and young people in schools and early learning services are therefore asked to follow this advice.

High risk individuals

While the majority of people who are confirmed with COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate symptoms, some individuals are at risk of more severe symptoms.

Older people, particularly those with pre-existing health problems are more likely to get severe illness and are therefore considered at risk. High risk individuals also include people with underlying medical conditions, such as:

- a compromised immune system
- liver disease
- cancer
- kidney disease
- heart disease
- diabetes mellitus

If you consider your child to be a 'high risk individual', please keep them at home.

All families who are choosing to keep your children at home; please use the absentee function on the School APP. Do this early – please notify us of the duration of the absence in the reason section. (This can always be amended if need be). Our office staff are very busy while we are in this situation. Please be on the front foot with absence notifications so we do not have to spend valuable time phoning families. There are no judgements being made on student absence – we just need to know where our children are.

Further information is available at:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/help-and-advice/for-everyone/vulnerable-people/>

Family Self Isolation – Testing for Covid 19

All families who are in this situation must communicate with the school. We need to be informed for track and trace reasons. Please email any information of this nature to principal@merrilands.school.nz

Continue to take care of yourselves and your families, look out for your friends and your neighbours. While keeping physical distance from people is encouraged, maintaining social connection with people is also really important. Pick up the phone, send them a message or get online for a video chat.

I'll be back in touch again soon.

Ngā mihi

Michelle Cronin
Principal