

Kia ora koutou

With so much information and misinformation swirling around about COVID-19, I wanted to share with you what will happen if we were to have a case in our school community. We have been planning for this and are in a position to respond quickly.

- As soon as a case is confirmed in our immediate school community (e.g. a student, staff member, or member of their household), the Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Education will inform me about this, and we will work together to get quick and clear messaging out to you.
- If there was a case confirmed of someone in our school, we will likely be asked to close temporarily by the Medical Officer of Health. This will allow time for close contacts to be traced, appropriate testing to be undertaken, and a careful clean of the school to be undertaken.
- If our school does need to close temporarily, we have a plan in place to support student's learning.

We know COVID-19 feels scary and of course people are concerned for the wellbeing of our children. Please be assured that with no case confirmed in our school, your children are safe here.

Good hygiene is a priority at our school, and we are reinforcing this regularly with all students and staff. We know that practicing good hygiene is still the best thing we can all do to prevent illness.

We are getting the most up to date advice and guidance so that we can confidently make informed decisions about the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

A diagram has been developed by Dr Siouxsie Wiles to assist you when considering symptoms. What it tells us is:

1. A dry cough and a high temperature are common to both flu and COVID-19.
2. Sneezing is *not* a symptom of COVID-19, however if someone has COVID-19, then sneezing can spread droplets containing the virus.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, FLU AND COLD

	DRY COUGH	FEVER	RUNNY NOSE	SORE THROAT	BREATH-LESSNESS	HEADACHE	BODY ACHES	SNEEZE	FATIGUE	DIARRHOEA
COVID -19	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	~	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✗	✓✓	~
FLU	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✗	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✗	✓✓✓	✓✓
COLD	✓	~	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✗	~	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✗

 FREQUENTLY
  SOMETIMES
  LITTLE
  RARE
  NOT

@SIOUXSIEW @XTOTL thespinoff.co.nz

SOURCE: WHO, CDC

CC-BY-SA

Ngā mihi
Murray Overton
Principal