



# Browns Bay School

EFFORT BRINGS REWARD

January 28<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parent/Caregiver  
Kia Ora

## Re. Recent outbreak of novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China

At Browns Bay School we know students will be returning to school on Monday February 3<sup>rd</sup> and the health of students and staff is a priority for all. I am writing to update you on the outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan, China. This newsletter will summarise the information about the virus and share with you what we intend to do as a school. I know it is of concern to you and I will continue to keep you informed if there is any further developments.

This is a new virus and its specific nature is currently unclear, however it appears that you can have the virus at an early stage and not be showing any symptoms. This incubation period is currently considered to be up to 14 days. There are currently no cases in New Zealand.

The advice from the Ministry of Health can be found on their website and it provides practical information [Novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) guidance – Ministry of Health website](#). This website also contains information for the community who are concerned about possible infection. Included in there is some advice (for travellers) to help reduce the general risk of infection:

- avoiding very close contact with people showing symptoms
- frequently washing hands
- avoiding close contact with sick live farm animals or wild animals
- practicing cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).

In terms of Browns Bay School we have been advised by the **Ministry of Education that if any student or staff have recently returned from China at any point in the last two weeks or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with the virus you are asked to not return to school for 14 days and voluntarily stay away.**

**If you are taking this action please advise me via confidential email to [peterm@brownsbay.school.nz](mailto:peterm@brownsbay.school.nz)**

We will also be

- Closely monitoring information being provided by Ministry of Health, in regard to the Coronavirus. We have established a team who will be leading the response at school. Should the situation change, as we do with other infectious diseases such as measles, mumps and influenza, we will follow our pandemic plan for managing the illness.

- Advising parents that the Principal can send students home if they are showing symptoms of a communicable disease. The student has to stay away for the infectious period of the disease. (It is expected that Coronavirus will be labelled a communicable disease).
- Maintaining hand cleaning supplies in all classrooms to enable students and teachers to clean their hands appropriately. We will also be showing children how to wash their hands thoroughly and for at least 20 seconds, as well as practising cough etiquette. We will be asking children and staff to do this regularly.
- We have been advised this is not necessary at the moment, but if you wish your child to wear a face mask, this will be permitted until the current situation changes. We recognise that some parents may wish to do this.
- All teachers and staff will be fully briefed on the situation, and able to offer clear advice to students.

As always anyone who is unwell should not be at school. If you have a particular concern about your family, please contact Healthline at 0800 611 116 or GP for medical advice. Healthline has translators and interpreters available 24/7 in 150 languages and they do have Mandarin and Cantonese speaking staff available.

### **Ministry of Health Guidelines**

(based on Health advice cards for overseas travellers)

Tell the health professional if you have a **temperature of 38°C or higher** and **one or more** of the following **symptoms**:

- ongoing coughing
- difficulty breathing
- ongoing diarrhoea
- ongoing vomiting
- skin rash
- bruising or bleeding without injury
- looking obviously unwell
- confusion.

Healthline 0800 611 116

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns at all.

Regards

Peter Mulcahy  
PRINCIPAL