

Covid-19 Update March 17

Dear Parents and Caregivers  
Kia Ora

Browns Bay School has health and safety as a top priority and I am endeavouring to keep our community safe and as up to date as possible with the new information. As you would be aware the situation is changing rapidly but it is pleasing to know we have no confirmed cases in schools yet. Late yesterday we received an email from the Ministry of Education outlining how schools need to work under the new policy decisions.

This morning we made a decision to cancel our full school assemblies until further notice. The Ministry of Education have advised of personal space boundaries that we could not guarantee when the whole school is in the Hall. Children will receive School Certificates in class on Friday.

We expect our community to be aware of the requirement for people who have returned from overseas to self-isolate for 14 days and follow the exact guidelines for self-isolation. The parents and students who returned from China at the start of the year set a very good example to us all regarding self-isolation.

In relation to COVID-19 Planning, one of the things the Ministry of Education is working on is what will be needed to ensure students are able to continue learning should the school be closed for a period of time. To help us in our planning for this situation we will be sending out a short survey to parents on the capacity of online learning at home. The survey is being sent out by classroom teachers by 1 pm tomorrow. When you get this survey we would really appreciate you filling it in.

We know that some parents have concerns about their children attending school at the moment, some of which may be due to what they are seeing in the media about other countries. If students are unwell (whether or not their illness relates to COVID-19) they should stay at home. Students who are not unwell should continue to attend school.

What can I do to stop COVID-19 spreading?

Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.

Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.

Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds).

Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

Avoid personal contact, such as sharing cups or food with sick people.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.

Stay home if you feel unwell and call Healthline on 0800 358 5453.

No student should attend school if they have any indicators of illness, and parents will be asked to collect students if they present with these indicators.

As we continue to receive advice from the Ministry of Education and the Auckland Regional Public Health Service we will aim to keep you informed as well. We are reviewing all school trips and activities as further advice is made available. Students and families affected by any cancellations or postponements will be contacted individually.

Regards

Peter Mulcahy