



Te Kura Tuarua o Tūranga Wāhine Gisborne Girls' High School

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COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) Update 2 for GGHS Whānau.

Kia ora whānau and students

I am writing to you all to provide further information regarding the developing Covid-19 situation. The government has made some decisions that will have impacts across communities in New Zealand. Many large-scale events have now been postponed and/or cancelled which has affected our school including Polyfest and our summer sports tournaments. While this is very disappointing for the students involved who have spent a great deal of time in training we can all understand the reasons for these decisions.

As a school we are well-informed by both our Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and we will take their advice on how we operate. We have taken steps to plan in case we are told to close the school so that we are able to do this in a calm and organised way. Teachers are preparing work for our students so that they can remain engaged with their learning. We are however, mindful that our students will have different situations as some may be required for childcare duties, may be helping to look after unwell whānau members or may be unwell themselves. We therefore do not want to stress students by expecting a large amount of schoolwork to be completed.

Below are a few reminders around what you need to know:

All travellers arriving in New Zealand, including New Zealand citizens, will need to self-isolate for 14 days.

Symptoms of Covid-19:

- * a serious cough
- * a high temperature (at least 38°C)
- * shortness of breath
- * tiredness

Doctors and the Ministry are telling people who have symptoms not to just turn up at the GP or hospital emergency department, but to phone ahead or ring Healthline on 0800 358 5453.

To reduce chances of being infected or spreading the virus we remind our students and their whānau to:

- * 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.
- * Stay at least 1 metre away from someone who is coughing or sneezing,
- * Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- * Avoid personal contact, sharing cups or food with sick people.
- * Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as door handles.
- * Stay home if you feel unwell.

We will continue to be vigilant at school and ask you to do the same.

Our primary concern is our students and it is important that we are careful about the kinds of conversations we have around them so we don't cause them to worry or become anxious. It is also important that we are kind to each other in stressful times and support each other.

Here are two links for those who wish to read more.

Ministry of Education

<http://www.education.govt.nz/.../novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/...>

Ministry of Health

<https://www.health.govt.nz/.../dis.../covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

We will keep you informed should the situation change.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jan Kumar', written over a horizontal line.

Jan Kumar
Principal