

Kia ora koutou

COVID19 – NL002/2403



PAPATOETOE
HIGH SCHOOL

With yesterday's announcement by Government, we are implementing with urgency our plan to support your child's learning from home. We appreciate this is a sudden and significant change, and will be heavily disruptive to many people in our community.

For children of essential workers, we look forward to seeing your child here at school if you need us today (24/03) and tomorrow (25/03). You may wish to check if you are considered an essential worker - <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/> however those roles include doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and police. We continue to ask that children who are not well, do not attend school.

For all other children, we will be supporting their learning from your home in the following ways:

- through online learning (we use Microsoft Teams, OneNote, Google Classroom, Education Perfect, Skype, Zoom meetings, email, closed FaceBook groups - to name but a few).
- provision of a learning packs once prepared (in our school, these packs will be for those unable to connect to an online learning space).
- Our school telephone system is still operating, and we have posted a list of extension numbers onto our website in the document area. Key staff have our phone system accessible from anywhere via a smartphone app, so if you need to call, look up the appropriate extension number and follow the instructions.
- Staff email addresses are also listed on the website, in the contacts area.

If you need to have your child looked after by someone else, you will need to identify that person or people as part of your self-isolated group. This will need to be done by midnight Wednesday and the group must remain the same for the whole 4-week period. The caregiver's own group (eg, their partner and children), your child and your own group (eg, your parents and other children) become one group. This group needs to be limited to minimise any risk of spread and should be no more than 20 people.

Your child will be looking to you for guidance about this decision. Parents, caregivers, whanau and teachers will have a particularly important part to play in reassuring children at this time. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to read the information put together by the Ministry of Education to support your conversations with your children – [Talking to children about COVID-19](#)

As noted by the Prime Minister these restrictions are our best chance to slow the virus in New Zealand and to save lives. We all have a clear role here to slow the spread of COVID-19.

There has also been a movement in the location of the school holidays, and how learning will take place at the start of the new Term 2. The new dates are as follows (but are subject to governmental change):

- Monday 30th March – Tuesday 14th April - school holidays.
- Wednesday 15th April – Friday 24th April (may be longer) = Term 2 starts, but distance learning, no staff or students at school, engaging online or with distributed learning packs.

We will continue to communicate with you over the coming days via email and our official school FaceBook page.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school staff and school community.

Ngā mihi, and good luck.
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