



19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Whanau

COVID-19 22 March 2020

**Alert levels:**

Yesterday the Prime Minister outlined the latest COVID-19 Alert levels and I wanted outline what these mean for Taumata School and more importantly our school community.

As you will know, nationally we are at **Alert Level 2** (Reduce). This means New Zealanders have been asked for greater physical distance in public areas (eg. libraries; events); minimisation of non-essential travel; implementation of new ways of working (if able to) and those more vulnerable (aged and immunity vulnerable) asked to remain at home.

At this stage Taumata School remains open. Whilst there are no known cases in our community, it is business as usual. If there was to be a confirmed case of someone in our school then we would follow the decision making matrix shared in Friday's Covid-19 update and close temporarily whilst appropriate tracking, tracing and testing were carried out. The decision to close would rest with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education; and we would implement an online/distance approach to learning.

We recognise that this situation is scary and ever-evolving. It creates anxiety and no sense of normality. Covid-19 is faceless, race-less, non-denominational and appears to impact broadly and widely. As such, this is a time where we must support each other and those more vulnerable, show strength and courage as a community and demonstrate basic human values of resilience, kindness, fairness and determination.

**Taumata School Learning**

As a school we have a pandemic plan that identifies various scenarios for action. With the most recent announcements we now ask that any 'at risk' or 'immune compromised' students and staff remain at home. This includes those with respiratory, kidney or heart conditions; those with asthma and those who are undergoing treatment for cancer or blood conditions. This decision will impact on how we approach learning; but as a school we have a duty of care to not only your children (our students) but also our employees (our Taumata team).

p: 07 579 0990

e: [office@taumata.school.nz](mailto:office@taumata.school.nz)

a: 145 Mortlake Heights Drive, Tauranga 3112, NZ

[www.taumata.school.nz](http://www.taumata.school.nz)

**Empowered to learn  
Empowered for life**

In addition to this we ask for your assistance in the following areas:

- If your child is unwell please keep them at home. Whilst it may be a regular cold/flu we want to ensure that the immunity of others is not compromised
- When dropping your children to and collecting from school we ask that this is done efficiently. We discourage staying to chat/play so that we minimise risk to others.
- The playground will be closed after school. This is to minimise potential risk through imposing social distancing.
- If you believe you have been in contact with anyone with suspected Covid-19 we ask that you self-impose isolation until confirmed. This will assist in minimising the risk of transmission.

#### **Cleaning and Hygiene:**

As a school we have increased the expectations for daily cleaning. We are using anti-viral sanitisers on the playground, on door handles and surfaces. In addition to this we have soap and paper towels available in all ablution areas; and foaming hand sanitiser in the learning spaces. We continue to encourage regular hand washing and good hygienic practices.

#### **Attendance:**

We recognise that given the latest developments many will choose to keep your children safe at home. We understand this decision and ask that you alert the school through your regular channels (phone/email) so that we are better able to manage our internal organisation.

Please be assured that we are doing all that we can to navigate this - working hard behind the scenes and preparing for different scenarios. We thank you once again for your ongoing support during this time and want to reiterate that as a community now is the time we must stand together.

Nga mihi nui whanau

Kind regards

Genavier Fuller

On behalf of the Taumata School Board of Trustees.

