

Return to School – Important Coronavirus information:

Following further directives from Iona Holsted, Secretary for Education, which were shared with Principals last evening, we would now like to further update and reassure you around the steps our school is taking to maintain the health of all at Kelston Primary School.

The health of our learners and our staff is a priority for all. In matters of health related to this virus we will err on the side of caution and here are some steps we will take.

As always anyone who is unwell should not be at school. If I have a particular concern about any child, student or staff member, I will urge parents or the staff member to contact Healthline at 0800 611 116 or their 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.

If a learner still attends school while showing symptoms I can preclude them if I believe on reasonable grounds they may have a communicable disease (Section 19 Education Act). The learner has to stay away for the infectious period of the specific disease. Principals can request that a learner with an infectious disease or who is suspected of having an infectious disease, does not attend school.

I can also request that a staff member with an infectious disease or is suspected of having an infectious disease, does not attend school.

For any staff member or learner who may be at high risk of exposure because they have recently been to China or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with the virus, I will ask that the staff member or parent/caregiver of the student delay the start of their school year for 14 days from the day of their re-entry into New Zealand and voluntarily stay away.

I am now requesting your support, in that any child who has recently returned from China, or who has had contact with someone who has recently visited China, remains at home for two weeks from the date of arrival in NZ. Could you please email admin@kelstonprimary.school.nz to let us know if you have been in China and with your child's delayed start date please.

As with our existing school procedures for children demonstrating symptoms of illness, we ask that all sick children are kept home. We are happy for children who are of good health to wear medical masks as a preventative measure if parents wish. These masks are not to be used as a substitute to staying home if children are unwell. Sick children must be kept at home, and we will send any child displaying signs of illness home immediately. If your child displays symptoms of illness such as sore throat, high temperature, cough and respiratory issues please consult a medical professional immediately.

At the start of every school year our staff place strong emphasis on teaching good hygiene practices to learners. As a school, we will also ensure that sanitisation of tables, door handles and light switches is of a high standard. We have sanitiser dispensers around the school and if you wish you may send your child to school with their own hand sanitiser.

We are required to follow the directions from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and we will also monitor and tailor our approach for our community accordingly. We will be monitoring the situation and will continue to provide further updates.

Nga mihi nui

Cliff Hughes
Principal