

22nd March, 2020



Kia Ora Koutou Whānau,

Over the weekend, additional updates via the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and the Prime Minister's office have led to some changes to our advice for students and families around remaining at home.

On Friday our key advice was that:

- Any staff member or student who has returned from overseas in the last two weeks, with the exception of Category 2 Pacific Island countries, will be directed to self-isolate for 14 days from their date of departure.
- Any person who has been in close contact with somebody who has tested positive for COVID 19 should self isolate for 14 days.
- Any student or staff member who lives in a household with somebody who has returned from overseas in the last 14 days and is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should self isolate.

On Saturday updated advice from the Prime Minister's office has directed anybody who meets the criteria for increased risk to remain at home. Students are viewed as being at increased risk if they have:

- Compromised immunity as a result of cancer and blood conditions
- Respiratory conditions such as COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and bronchiectasis
- Heart conditions
- High blood pressure
- Severe asthma
- Kidney problems
- Diabetes

Given this, we would request that parents keep students at home if they meet either the criteria for self isolation outlined on Friday or those established for increased risk. If students are being kept at home then communication is critical to allow us to consider:

- The schools approach around an alternative learning programme for our students
- Mitigating any potential risk to our students, staff and wider community

Please email the school office@methven.school.nz if your child will be absent for any of the above reasons.

In the short term we have considered how we can continue to mitigate risk to our learners and staff throughout the day. These measures include:

- ongoing professional cleaning of surfaces
- hand sanitising in and out of classrooms
- staggered breaktimes for each team
- no team gatherings (class size learning groups)
- no non-essential activities

With an increase in the number of staff away as a result of the new regulations we will also be considering how we can maximize teaching and learning programmes within our next context. This

may involve collapsing some classes, and/or transitioning to online learning. We will ensure that you are regularly updated as we continue to build a clearer picture around this.

If your child is remaining home this week we recommend the following home learning options:

- Reading: keep up daily reading of any books you have at home
- Writing: write a daily diary
- Maths: baking, board games or practising basic facts (addition and subtraction, multiplication and division)
- Homework Sheet – available on Hero and the School Website for Y3-6
- Digital Options: Matific & Epic (Y3-6), Reading Eggs & Topmarks (Year Y1-2)

Further Home Learning options will become available and communicated by the end of the week.

Ways you can help us:

- keep your children at home if they are unwell (email: office@methven.school.nz)
- drop your children at school as close to 9am as possible (we won't be encouraging playground play before or after school)
- drop your children at the gate (we will limit parent access to classrooms)
- maintain ongoing communication with us

Just a reminder that we are following the Alert Levels in the “Unite against COVID-19” action plan and we are under the guidance of the Ministry of Education. At no point are we allowed to close, unless instructed.

These are uncertain times for all of us and we need to leverage the fact that we have a fantastic community. Let's look out for one another, help each other and stay connected.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, FLU AND COLD

	DRY COUGH	FEVER	RUNNY NOSE	SORE THROAT	BREATH-LESSNESS	HEADACHE	BODY ACHE'S	SNEEZE	FATIGUE	DIARRHOEA
COVID -19	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	~	✓✓	✓
FLU	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✗	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✗	✓✓✓	✓✓
COLD	✓	~	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✗	~	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✗

✓✓✓ FREQUENTLY
✓✓ SOMETIMES
✓ LITTLE
~ RARE
✗ NOT

@SIOUXSIEW @XTOTL thespinoff.co.nz SOURCE: WHO, CDC CC-BY-SA

Ngā mihi
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