



Kiaora, Malo e lelei, Talofa lava, Bula, Mabuhay, Annyeong, Ni hao, Greetings to you all.

COVID-19

Saturday 21 March Announcement and Implications

With the announcement that New Zealand has moved to Alert Level 2 – Reduce Contact for COVID-19 (see image below), people over 70 years of age and those with compromised immunity and certain existing medical conditions are asked to remain at home as much as they can from now on and avoid any non-essential travel. Staff, children and young people in schools and early learning services are therefore asked to follow this advice.

We will be encouraging our staff who fall into this category to stay at home and if possible continue to support school curriculum or other school activities for example providing pastoral care by phone, marking, and lesson planning. This will inevitably have knock on effects on our day to day organisation, the way in which we are able to operate and usual teaching and learning in some areas. We will endeavour to ensure school remains a place of learning, faith, joy and safety for our children.

We are requesting that ANY CHILDREN with conditions which fall into these categories, not attend school due to their condition. Child wellbeing is our main priority and we wish to minimise any risk to children, especially at this time and based on MOE guidance, those with compromised immunity or certain medical conditions, by ensuring they are not compromised at school. In order to maintain accurate records we ask that you email our office on admin@sj.s.school.nz to report the absence with the specific reason.

High risk individuals

While the majority of people who are confirmed with COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate symptoms, some individuals are at risk of more severe symptoms. Older people, particularly those with pre-existing health problems are more likely to get severe illness and are therefore considered at risk. High risk individuals also include people with underlying medical conditions, such as:

a compromised immune system

- liver disease
- cancer
- kidney disease
- heart disease
- diabetes mellitus



For further information scan these QR codes

New Zealand COVID-19 Alert Levels

Unite
against
COVID-19

- These alert levels specify the public health and social measures to be taken.
- The measures may be updated on the basis of (i) new scientific knowledge about COVID-19 and (ii) information about the effectiveness of intervention measures in New Zealand and elsewhere.
- The alert levels may be applied at a town, city, territorial local authority, regional or national level.
- Different parts of the country may be at different alert levels. We can move up and down alert levels.
- In general, the alert levels are cumulative, e.g. Level 1 is a base-level response. Always prepare for the next level.
- At all levels, health services, emergency services, utilities and goods transport, and other essential services, operations and staff, are expected to remain up and running. Employers in those sectors must continue to meet their health and safety obligations.

LEVEL	RISK ASSESSMENT	RANGE OF MEASURES (can be applied locally or nationally)
Level 4 - Eliminate Likely that disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained and intensive transmission • Widespread outbreaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People instructed to stay at home • Educational facilities closed • Businesses closed except for essential services (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics) and lifeline utilities • Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities • Travel severely limited • Major reprioritisation of healthcare services
Level 3 - Restrict Heightened risk that disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community transmission occurring OR • Multiple clusters break out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel in areas with clusters or community transmission limited • Affected educational facilities closed • Mass gatherings cancelled • Public venues closed (e.g. libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, amusement parks) • Alternative ways of working required and some non-essential businesses should close • Non face-to-face primary care consultations • Non acute (elective) services and procedures in hospitals deferred and healthcare staff reprioritised
Level 2 - Reduce Disease is contained, but risks of community transmission growing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk of importing COVID-19 OR • Increase in imported cases OR • Increase in household transmission OR • Single or isolated cluster outbreak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry border measures maximised • Further restrictions on mass gatherings • Physical distancing on public transport (e.g. leave the seat next to you empty if you can) • Limit non-essential travel around New Zealand • Employers start alternative ways of working if possible (e.g. remote working, shift-based working, physical distancing within the workplace, staggering meal breaks, flexible leave arrangements) • Business continuity plans activated • High-risk people advised to remain at home (e.g. those over 70 or those with other existing medical conditions)
Level 1 - Prepare Disease is contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heightened risk of importing COVID-19 OR • Sporadic imported cases OR • Isolated household transmission associated with imported cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border entry measures to minimise risk of importing COVID-19 cases applied • Contact tracing • Stringent self-isolation and quarantine • Intensive testing for COVID-19 • Physical distancing encouraged • Mass gatherings over 500 cancelled • Stay home if you're sick, report flu-like symptoms • Wash and dry hands, cough into elbow, don't touch your face

Planning for the future

With so much information and misinformation swirling around about COVID-19, I wanted to share with you what will happen if we were to have a case in our school community. We have been planning for this and are in a position to respond quickly. As soon as a case is confirmed in our immediate school community (eg. a student, staff member, or member of their household), the Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Education will inform me about this, and we will work together to get quick and clear messaging out to you.

If there was a case confirmed of someone in our school, we will likely be asked to close temporarily by the Medical Officer of Health. This will allow time for close contacts to be traced, appropriate testing to be undertaken, and a careful clean of the school to be undertaken. If our school does need to close temporarily, we have a plan in place to support student's learning.

We know COVID-19 feels scary and people are concerned for the wellbeing of our children. Please be assured that we have no current cases confirmed in our school. We have a detailed plan in place and we are working diligently to minimise risk for our staff and learners. Good hygiene is a priority at our school, and we are reinforcing this regularly with all students and staff. We know that practicing good hygiene is still the best thing we can all do to prevent illness.

We are getting the most up to date advice and guidance so that we can confidently make informed decisions about the safety and wellbeing of our school community. If your children are unwell in anyway please keep them at home, email school on admin@sjs.school.nz and inform your doctor.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, FLU AND COLD

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

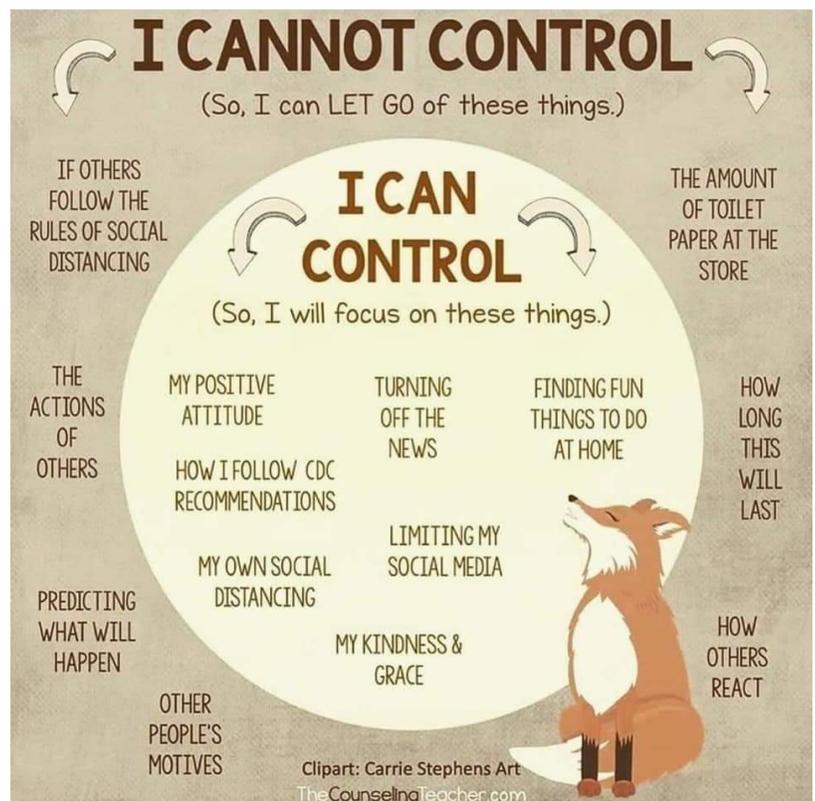
✓✓✓ FREQUENTLY
 ✓✓ SOMETIMES
 ✓ LITTLE
 ~ RARE
 ✗ NOT

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SOURCE: WHO, CDC CC-BY-SA

Talking with children about COVID-19

Please use this resource as a support if you need some ideas about ways to talk to your children about COVID-19 in a positive manner which encourages understanding in a healthy and resilient manner. (LINK)



With trust and confidence in our loving God we pray for one another that we may . . .

practice precaution without being paralysed,

exercise social responsibility and think of the weakest and most vulnerable,

find creative ways of connecting, showing care, and sharing compassion