

Coronavirus

As you will have seen in the media the situation is rapidly evolving internationally concerning the coronavirus.

This is a new virus and its specific nature is currently unclear, however it appears that you can have the virus at an early stage and not be showing any symptoms. The incubation period is currently considered to be 14 days.

Children and young people are currently returning to classrooms. The health of students and staff is a priority for all. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to err on the side of caution and here are some steps you can take.

- As always anyone who is unwell should not be at school. If any child or student is unwell parents are urged 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.
- Any student 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, are asked to delay the start of their school year for 14 days and voluntarily stay away.
- If a student still attends school while showing symptoms the Principal of a state school can preclude them if they believe on reasonable grounds they may have a communicable disease (Section 19 Education Act). The student has to stay away for the infectious period of the specific disease.

Other useful information provided by the Ministry of Education:

You can also contact your local District Health Board if you require further information on 09 623 4600.

Current travel information – please do continue to refer to the Ministry of Health's information page on their website. It will be updated as new information comes to hand.
[Novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) guidance – Ministry of Health website](#)

If students are about to travel to China – we urge parents/caregivers to visit the MFAT <https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/> for updates on travel advice and restrictions.