



# Our Lady of the Rosary School

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## ***Update regarding coronavirus (COVID-19)***

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

You may have seen that the World Health Organisation has now declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic. As noted by the Minister of Health, this doesn't change what New Zealand is doing to respond to coronavirus.

The Ministry of Health has been working through its pandemic plan since January. You will also know the Government has already implemented a range of measures to minimise the impacts to New Zealand.

We have 5 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Zealand. The Ministry of Health says that with continued vigilance the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low in New Zealand. For our school, we will continue to follow the advice of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.

We all have a role to play in minimising the spread of COVID-19 and the best preventative steps we can take are:

- Washing our hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and drying them thoroughly.
- Avoiding touching our eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding sharing anything that has come in contact with saliva in either our living, working or social environments.
- Staying at home if we are sick and seeking medical attention by phone contact.
- Covering any cough or sneeze with a tissue, then disposing of the tissue.
- Having adequate sleep and eating well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system.

One other action we can all take is to be vigilant about our own health and the health of our children. I will be encouraging my staff to stay away from school if they are showing signs of illness such as coughs and colds. I ask that you please do the same with your children. Colds and flus are common in schools and by staying away, seeking medical attention and practicing good hygiene, we can all keep any spread of illness to a minimum.

The Ministry of Health website at [www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz) is the best source of information for New Zealand and they update this information regularly. I will keep you informed of any further updates in relation to our school.

Ngā mihi

Karolina Surynt-Tapiki  
Principal