



WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Te Kura Tuarua o Taraika ki Pukeahu

PRINCIPAL: Dominic Killalea BA Dip Ed

20 March 2020

Dear Parents

We hope that this email finds you well and that the disruption from COVID-19 in your home country is not taking too much of a toll on you and your family. These are very uncertain and troubling times. It must be difficult for you to have your child away from home at this time, and we want to assure you that their wellbeing is our focus and we are looking after them.

The current situation

We want to update you on the situation for your son or daughter here in Wellington and to provide you with the latest information in light of announcements made by our government over the last few days.

The total confirmed cases for New Zealand is 28 and with continued vigilance, the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low.

The Prime Minister announced new and strong protective measures to keep individuals, families and communities safe and healthy and from midnight 19th March 2020 the New Zealand borders closed to all travellers who are not NZ citizens or permanent residents.

Our Ministry of Health website has the most up to date information and is the place that we recommend you go for updates rather than news outlets.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

School closure

The school is operating as normal and there are no plans to shut schools in New Zealand at this time. If the Ministry of Education orders our school to be closed our pandemic plan would be launched and learning would continue in some capacity online.

Insurance

Even though the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to be low, we want to ensure that you are aware that most insurance cover typically will have an exclusion for pandemic cover. For those of you who arranged your own insurance please check with your provider.

However, as COVID-19 is now a notifiable infectious disease in New Zealand, international students are eligible for publicly funded health services relating to the following:

- the surveillance of persons who are liable to quarantine
- diagnosis
- treatment of the person's infectious or quarantinable disease
- follow-up services and contact tracing services



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This means that **international students who becomes ill with Covid-19 in New Zealand and are admitted to hospital, will have their treatment publicly funded**. However, there may be some costs, for example visits to family doctors, disrupted travel plans that may be considered under individual insurance policies or should be paid by parents rather than be publicly funded. For those students with policies taken out by us with Southern Cross International Student insurance any additional costs will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Therefore, we need confirmation that you, as parents, will meet any such costs not covered by your student's travel insurance. I would be grateful if **you could read and sign the attached document and return it to me at** this email address as soon as possible. We will continue to take all appropriate measures to keep students safe and to arrange appropriate medical care in the event that a student becomes ill.

Homestay

As part of our pandemic planning, we have a plan for managing your student in the homestay should they or their host family get sick. We want to make sure that your son or daughter's time in Wellington is the best it can possibly be.

Please contact me if you have any questions at all.

Kind regards

Prue Isaacs

Prue Isaacs | International Student Director

Wellington High School

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