

Announcements from the Headmaster:

March 23, 9.00am:

Dear Parents

Please find attached a letter from the Ministry of Education. I would ask you to please read the attached information clearly as it addresses any key questions that you may have. We have been assured by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health that any risk to our staff and students is low.

Ma te Atua tātou e manaaki God's blessings

*James Bentley
Headmaster*



22 March 2020

Letter to Parents, Caregiver and Staff

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

The Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) has confirmed that a staff member at Marist College has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Some of the staff members at your school may have had close contact with this person, and ARPHS are working through their process to identify who they are.

The schools are: St Mary's College, St Paul's College, St Peter's College, Christ the King Catholic School, Good Shepherd School, Marist Catholic School - Herne Bay, Marist Primary School - Mt Albert, Monte Cecilia Catholic School, St Dominic's Catholic Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic School - Grey Lynn, St Therese School.

This is not the same as having a case at the school.

The staff member is in [self-isolation](#) at home and will only return to their school after completing their isolation period and if they are well. This action means that there is very minimal risk to the school community.

COVID-19 is managed the same way as other infectious diseases, like mumps. That means that people who are considered close contacts of the case, but don't have the disease, are kept away from others in case they become contagious.

Public Health is identifying and communicating with the person's [close contacts](#). These people will also be required to [self-isolate](#) at home for 14 days and watch for symptoms.

You are not at risk if you have been close to a close contact, as the close contact does not have the disease. Contacts of close contacts do not have to take any action. Please do not post any information identifying the person on social media as this could lead to bullying and/or online abuse. [Netsafe](#) provides guidance on online behaviour.

What you can do

Keep taking the following precautions and remind others in your family and networks to do the same:

- If you or your children are sick, stay home away from others.
- Wash and dry your hands regularly and thoroughly (at least 20 seconds) throughout the day using soap and water. You can use hand sanitiser in the absence of soap/water.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or cough and sneeze into your crooked elbow.
- Throw used tissues into the bin and immediately wash your hands.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Keep your distance from other people – especially those showing signs of illness (coughing and sneezing).

For more information and advice, visit: www.covid19.govt.nz. Advice and information is also available on the [Auckland Regional Public Health Service website: www.arphs.health.nz](http://www.arphs.health.nz).

This is a challenging time for communities across New Zealand. Please continue to demonstrate our school's values and show respect, compassion and kindness to others.

Ngā mihi
Ministry of Education