

22 March 2020

Yesterday came the announcement that New Zealand has moved to Alert Level 2 – Reduce Contact for COVID-19, 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.

I ask that any unwell students or those with flu like symptoms remain at home until 100% recovered. This includes students who are going through mandatory self isolation. These students are marked on the role as a justified absence. I understand that some parents or caregivers may choose to keep their children away from school.

I understand that keeping your child at home at this time may be the best decision for you and your whanau, please communicate this with the school. Please do so using one of the following:

Email - [absentees@mtint.school.nz](mailto:absentees@mtint.school.nz)

Phone - 07 575 5512 xt 1

Text - 027 232 0446

*Teachers will be advised of your child's absence.*

While this would normally be considered an unjustified absence, the overall wellbeing considerations or other considerations for particular students may need to be taken into account.

Supporting learning at home: We are in preparation and working through processes. Information and guidelines will be communicated in the next few days.

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

Stay safe whanau

Ngā mihi

Lisa Morresey