



# Dargaville High School

Plunket Street, DARGAVILLE 0310  
Phone: (09) 439 7229 | Fax: (09) 439 7563

email: [office@darghigh.school.nz](mailto:office@darghigh.school.nz) | web: [www.dargavillehighschool.co.nz](http://www.dargavillehighschool.co.nz)

19 March 2020

Tēnā tātou katoa

A few parents have been asking about Dargaville High School's response to the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaration of Covid-19 as a pandemic, as well as government announcements and information in the media.

We are in regular contact with the Ministry of Education, as well as the Ministry of Health and we have been advised that there is no reason for alarm. Our own pandemic plans mean that we have systems in place to help us cope if anything changes.

At this stage the Ministry of Education has determined that schools will remain open and we continue to focus on good hygiene practices. These include:

- Washing hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, making sure to dry them thoroughly afterwards.
  - Before eating or handling food.
  - After using the toilet.
  - After coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose or wiping children's noses.
  - After caring for sick people.
- Avoid close contact with people with cold or flu like illnesses.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or with your elbow.

As a school, we are putting extra effort into sterilising key contact points, such as door handles, rails, keyboards etc... and we have put hand sanitiser in a number of areas.

Another action we can all take is to be vigilant about our own health and the health of our children. Our staff have been advised to stay away from school if they are unwell and I ask that you please do the same with your children, if they show any signs of coughs and colds.

Finally the government has set up a Covid-19 dedicated website, which has a lot of information all in one place. The website is <https://covid19.govt.nz/>.

Naku Nā

Mike Houghton  
Principal