



"YOUR PASS TO YOUR POTENTIAL"  
A New Innovative Senior School for Pasifika by Pasifika

## **COVID-19 to be a pandemic**

*Kia ora PASS whānau*

*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 and the Government has already implemented a range of measures to minimise the impacts to New Zealand. This includes border restrictions, a requirement to self-isolate on arrival in New Zealand from China, Iran, Italy and the Republic of Korea and immediate and detailed contact tracing of any confirmed cases. It is important to note that those four countries account for more than 90% of cases globally and China and the Republic of Korea have significantly declining numbers of new cases.*

*We have 5 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Zealand and it is pleasing to know that they are all doing well and are at home. Their children, four students at Auckland schools, continue to be well and show no symptoms. While we expect that more cases will arise, the Ministry of Health says that with continued vigilance the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low in New Zealand. We all have a role to play in this.*

*For our school, our pandemic plan is also ready to be implemented if needed. [In the meantime we will continue to focus on good hygiene practices after using the toilet and before eating meals at PASS. Hand washing and good cough etiquette are very important tools in preventing the spread of illness including colds, flu and COVID-19. We will also introduce minimal contact when greeting each other and our visitors with a friendly "fist pump" .](#)*



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*Polyfest - the school continues to follow the guidance of the ASB Polyfest committee and will keep parents updated. Should you have any concerns, please contact Aunty Clera Mātafai.*

*With that, there is a good video clip from Nanogirl that will help your son/daughter to better understand the virus - [YouTube clip - Nanogirl](#)*

*You may have also seen the Prime Minister sit down with Dr Michelle Dickinson (aka Nanogirl) and the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, Juliet Gerrard, to talk about coronavirus:*

- [Watch on the PM's Facebook page](#)
- [Read and watch on the Newshub website](#)

*One other action we can all take is to be vigilant about our own health and the health of our children. We will be encouraging our 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 son/daughter. 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.*

*Ngā mihi*