



Kerikeri High School

Kerikeri, Bay of Islands
New Zealand

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11 June 2009

Dear Parents and Caregivers

You will be well aware through media reports of the growing concerns about the possibility of an outbreak of Influenza A (H1N1), otherwise known as Swine Flu. Advice received from the Ministry of Health is suggesting that the likelihood of such an outbreak in New Zealand is now high. Schools are being advised to prepare should the school have to close for a period of time.

In the event of the Ministry of Health directing Kerikeri High School to close due to an outbreak of Influenza A (H1N1) students would complete the school day and would bring home a letter advising parents of the closure. We would also ensure that local media run messages advising our community of this directive. Once we were advised that we could reopen the school we would again ensure that local media notify the community of this, we would also post such an update on our school website (www.kerikerihigh.ac.nz) and we would have a message on our telephone answering system should we not be able to have staff on site to answer phones.

Arrangements are being made to contact our bus contractors to advise them of our plans.

We are well prepared for any potential pandemic, with a very detailed Pandemic Plan on hand. Should an outbreak lead to a small group of students needing to be quarantined during the school day, as we have seen happen at Gisborne Boys' High School, we have a Pandemic Kit on site which would allow us to manage such a process in a safe and sensitive manner.

Staff are being asked to give thought to the preparation of work which students may be able to complete at home in the event of a school closure. Our intention is to make such work available through our school website and where possible, to be presented to students before the closure occurs. Posting work, especially for senior students, is also an option should closure extend beyond a week.

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We urge parents and caregivers to give thought to being prepared for a school closure or a wider outbreak of Influenza A (H1N1) in terms of child care and family arrangements.

We hope that these plans are not required, however on the advice of both the Ministries of Health and Education we all need to be prepared for these circumstances should they occur.

Given the current health concerns we do ask that if your child feels unwell and is displaying flu-like symptoms you keep him or her at home as a precaution until such symptoms have passed. Obviously we would recommend you take medical advice though this is clearly a matter for you as parent or guardian.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding any of these arrangements please feel free to contact one of our Deputy Principals, Mike Clent, Tim Rea, Judy Cleaver or Glenys Ross.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E A Forgie', written in a cursive style.

E A Forgie (Mrs)
Principal