

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As the start of the school year is getting very close (Friday, 7th February) we thought this an appropriate time to share with you the advice schools have been getting on Coronavirus from both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. Their advice remains unchanged from our initial notice.

They are working closely to ensure that we have the most relevant information to inform our planning in regard to the potential risks associated with the Coronavirus .Information is available on the Ministry of Health information page on their website. It will be updated as new information comes to hand.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

- Please be assured that our school is closely monitoring information being provided by Ministry of Health, in regard to the Coronavirus.
- We have taken the precaution of cancelling the Chinese short term visit programme for this term.
- **If you have travelled to China over this holiday period, please contact the school so we can ensure that you have the correct information re keeping your child(ren) home from school and other activities for two (2) weeks from the date you returned to Auckland. In addition, please notify us of your child's absence by the usual means. Either phone (09 846 9744), email (info@gladstone.school.nz) or Flexibuzz.**
- The risk of an outbreak in New Zealand is currently low and the Ministry of Health's current advice is that there is no specific action to be taken at this time.
- Just to reaffirm, there are no cases of the virus in New Zealand currently.
- Should the situation change, as we do with other infectious diseases such as measles, mumps and influenza, we will follow our pandemic plan for managing the illness.
- To help reduce the general risk of infection please reinforce at home the importance of frequently washing hands and practicing cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands). We will also be doing this at school.

Regards

Dave Shadbolt- Principal

Steve Gough – Board Chair