

Christ's College Covid-19 update

17 March 2020

In the light of the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding Covid-19 – and following Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's recent announcement about guidelines for group gatherings – we have made some changes to College activities.

First, I would like to thank you for your calm and understanding manner as we deal with this evolving situation. A sense of composure, especially as you help your son manage any anxiety he may feel, is vital to us here at College and in the wider community. Please be reassured we are continuously monitoring our approach, and from all reports to date, healthy adolescents do not appear to be in a high-risk category. There has been no suggestion of school closures at this stage, but if this circumstance should arise, College is well prepared to deliver remote learning.

One of the most important ways to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 is to pay attention to personal hygiene and hand washing. I ask you to stress the importance of this with your son – and if your son is unwell, please keep him at home. In addition, please arrange for your son to receive the flu vaccination this year, as this will help mitigate pressure on health services during the winter months.

Social distancing is another important tool that can help prevent community spread of the virus. Therefore, College has made the difficult decision to cancel or postpone various public events, including our Open Day and community visits among others. We haven't taken these decisions lightly, and will continue to monitor and make decisions about upcoming events in a timely manner. While some events could proceed within the scope of current Government guidelines, we believe it is better to err on the side of caution to reduce any concerns.

We have also made some temporary changes to the weekly timetable, and Chapel (including Sundays), Congers and Assembly are cancelled for now. The boys are aware of this and have responded very well to all we are doing at College to address this issue.

Perhaps most disappointing, however, is the recent cancellation of Summer Tournament Week. You can read the announcement from School Sport New Zealand [here](#). So many of our boys have worked hard in their chosen codes and were looking forward to competing at these championship events, and we need to be especially understanding and supportive in these circumstances which are out of everybody's control.

A special message for boarding parents from Director of Boarding Darrell Thatcher

We wish to advise:

- We have made extra handwashing and hand sanitiser stations available in the boarding Houses
- The level of cleaning in boarding Houses has been upgraded to take into consideration what we know about the spread of the virus
- Boys will continue to be instructed in and reminded of safe hygiene behaviours
- We will seek medical advice as soon as possible if a student presents with symptoms

We need your support with the following:

- Please notify us if you have any concerns about the level of worry this is causing your son
- Families need to be prepared to collect their son immediately from the boarding House if he is ill with a cold or flu-like symptoms (or arrange for a relation, friend or guardian to do this)
- Families need to be prepared to collect their son immediately should the school have to close (or arrange for a relation, friend or guardian to do this)

Flu vaccinations for boarders

- As for dayboys, parents of boarders are asked to make sure their son has his flu vaccination with his local doctor during the holiday break
- If this is not possible, we can arrange for the vaccination to be given in Week 1 of Term 2. The cost will be \$32 per person, unless your son is eligible for a free vaccination because of a health condition (like asthma). The cost will be invoiced to you directly (or to College for international students)
- If you want your son to receive his vaccination through College, please complete the attached consent form and send it back to your son's Housemaster by Tuesday 28 April, the first day of Term 2
- Please complete the [Christ's College Boarder Flu Vaccination – 2020 Confirmation Form](#) so we have a complete summary of our boarders and flu vaccinations

Please contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns. We will continue to update you via the Schoolbox Parent Portal as circumstances change. Thank you for your understanding.

Helpful links

Ministry of Health – latest updates

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Ministry of Education – latest updates

<https://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/student-and-staff-health/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/>

Ministry of Education – information for learners, parents and whanau

<https://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/student-and-staff-health/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/novel-coronavirus-information-for-caregivers-and-whanau-of-learners/>