



COVID-19 in Our Kura and Our Communities

Koia nei a Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa e mihi atu nei ki ngā reo, ngā mana, ngā karangatanga maha o te motu.

- Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa (NKAI) acknowledges the "Rangatiratanga" of our kura, boards, iwi and communities throughout Aotearoa. We have confidence that all of our kura will make wise decisions to meet the needs of their communities and the guidelines shared by key authorities including the Ministry of Health.
- In response to the wellbeing of our Uri (students) in our kura, we trust that each kura and their staff will keep the wellbeing of their tamariki in the forefront of all decisions they make.
- NKAI ask that Boards carefully consider their staff, who are also parents, grandparents and whānau members. Kura are entering an unknown territory that no one has ever experienced before. The only lesson we can take from the last influenza epidemic was that it decimated our people and of course the most vulnerable.
- Please consider the responsibilities that each school is putting upon staff in your forward planning. Staff will still have to take care of their children and their whānau in this trying time.
- Give Staff the space to respond to their own whānau members - as a parent, caregiver and someone who extended whānau may also need support. The natural behaviour of Māori teachers is to be the best teacher they can be and sometimes at great expense to their own whānau. NKAI ask that Boards consider the need for our teachers and staff to be there for their whānau first.
- In regards to non-teaching payments NKAI would advocate that boards support payments of these staff members also in the event schools are shut by Government agencies to give confidence to your communities.
- Furthermore, may NKAI ask that schools consider the stress levels of older siblings of whānau who will need to take on the caregivers role to support their parents to continue to work until they cannot. When we consider this responsibility for our *taiohi*, we will need to reflect on the work we expect them to complete outside of the school system without school support.
- Please know that Ngā Ringa Raupā (Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa Executive) and Ngā Ringa Wera (Ngā Kura ā Iwi Management Team) are here to support you and your kura.
- We remind all of our kura to utilise the guidance given by the Ministry of Health on their website to support you and your community.

Kia tau ngā manaakitanga o te runga rawa ki runga i a tātou.

Tēnā koutou katoa