



## COVID-19 Update #4 to Wee Nippers Community

20 March 2020

This update contains the following sections:

1. Letter to our community
2. Health and Wellness at Wee Nippers

May we first say that we are thankful to our community for heeding our advice and requests regarding hygiene and our illness and attendance policies. It has made these difficult times better knowing that we are all putting each other's health and wellness first.

Our people are our number one priority. Our primary concern is the health and wellbeing of our tamariki, our whanau and our kaiako.

Each day brings news and a sense of uncertainty. Given the many changes and challenges we are facing as a country and community that relate directly to COVID-19, we wanted to communicate with you all to try to answer a few queries that you may currently have. One question that parents are starting to ask us is around fees should our Centres be closed by the Ministry of Health for greater public health reasons.

Wee Nippers Childcare wants to do best by its team and community by limiting the financial impact on them of a closedown. We see it as the right thing to do and, in as far as we can, will ensure that once a closedown ends, each Centre will reopen and operate when our community needs us.

### Will Wee Nippers need to close and what does this mean for my child's enrolment?

We will be following Government and Ministry advice on when they may require us/childcare centres to close. The length of a forced closure can be expected to be anywhere from 24-48 hours to 14 days (10 working days) or more. **There will be no fees or meal charges if we are required to close due to COVID-19.**

*(Due to the ever-changing nature of this situation, this will be reviewed on a fortnightly basis and may change should circumstances require).*

### What if we are directed to go into self-isolation?

If you, or someone living in your home, is required to self-isolate, we would like to remind you to please keep your child/ren at home. In such circumstances, we are offering families two **weeks of no fees or meal charges** to use for self-isolation directed by the Ministry of Health. For absences longer than this we ask that you speak with Nat or Rachel to assist us with some required paperwork to ensure that your child's enrolment is held.

*(Due to the ever-changing nature of this situation, this will be reviewed on a fortnightly basis and may change should circumstances require).*

### What should I do if my child is unwell?

Schools and preschools are places that present risk for transmission of any virus. If children are ill, then there is a responsibility to keep them at home. At the Centre we also need to have a heightened sense of identifying, and acting upon, illness.

We thank you in advance for understanding why, in some circumstances, children will need to be taken home if they are considered by the teachers to be unwell. We hope you all understand why this is being done. The greater good of our community and country has to outweigh individual inconveniences in these circumstances.

Any closure of a Centre will be directed by the Ministry of Health with limited notice. Please make sure that if your contacts have changed at all, that they are updated with Kim or Marie.

As ever, if you have any questions, please contact Nat, Rachel, Simone or George.

Nga mihi

Rachel Cade

[manager.invercargill@weenippers.co.nz](mailto:manager.invercargill@weenippers.co.nz)

027 518 7050

Natalie Tisdall

[manager.mosgiel@weenippers.co.nz](mailto:manager.mosgiel@weenippers.co.nz)

027 518 7555

George Crossan

[george.crossan@weenippers.co.nz](mailto:george.crossan@weenippers.co.nz)

027 518 7550

Simone Flight

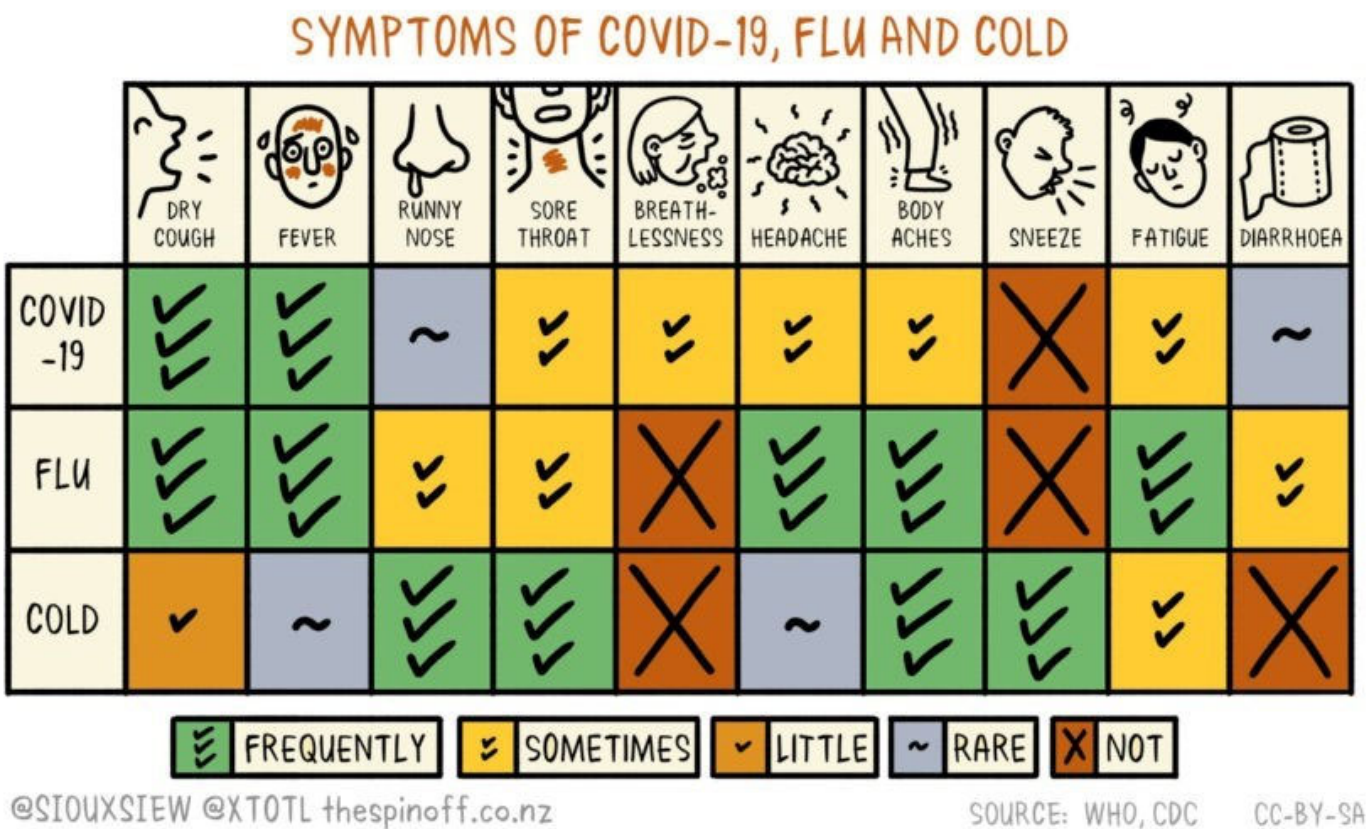
[simone.flight@weenippers.co.nz](mailto:simone.flight@weenippers.co.nz)

021 1656 218

2. Health and Wellness at Wee Nippers

At Wee Nippers we are doing what we can to practise social distancing, remaining vigilant about hygiene and looking after our team and children’s health and wellbeing.

- We are reducing unnecessary adult: adult contact as much as practicable within our Centre.
- We have postponed or cancelled team meetings in the short term.
- We have postponed or cancelled professional development which would expose our team to group environments and/or travel.
- We are limiting the use of relievers that may also work in other centres.
- We are limiting any non-essential visits to the Centre during operating hours e.g. walkarounds for potential new parents.
- We will limit classroom/centre excursions to any populated places for the foreseeable future.
- We have ramped up our cleaning efforts as described in our last update.
- We will continue to fund flu vaccines for our team.



To reiterate that latest information and advice from the Ministry of Health that we are working to:

- ECEs must follow and enforce policies and procedures around good hygiene and encourage you to do so too by:
  - Washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds (the same as singing Happy Birthday twice through) before and after eating as well as after attending the toilet.
  - Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Covering coughs and sneezes with clean tissues or with an elbow
  - Avoiding sharing anything that has come in contact with saliva, whether in your living or social environments.
  - Putting used tissues in the bin.
  - Keeping children at home if they are unwell (see our traffic light posters on all classroom doors.)
- If anyone living in or staying in your household is instructed to self-isolate, please advise your Centre Manager. It will be treated in full confidence and will assist us to follow all guidelines and advice we are being given by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. For information about self-isolation for everyone involved, see the [Ministry of Health guidelines for self-isolation](#).
- If you or your child are showing flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), call Healthline (0800 358 5453) or your GP. **Do not visit your local medical centre or emergency room unannounced.** Call ahead. They will have processes to ensure that you will not put other patients or healthcare workers at risk of getting sick or having to self-isolate for 14 days.

Quick links:

[www.COVID19.govt.nz](http://www.COVID19.govt.nz)  
[COVID-19 \(novel coronavirus\): Ministry of Health website](#)  
[COVID-19 \(novel coronavirus\): Information for Early Learning Services](#)  
<http://www.weenippers.co.nz/news/covid-19-updates/>