



COVID-19 Update to Wee Nippers Community

As everyone will be aware, the COVID-19 or novel coronavirus has reached New Zealand. We are receiving excellent, almost daily updates from the Ministry of Education (MoE) with the most up to date official information and advice for the education sector and early childhood education centres.

We are printing these updates and you can find them at reception along with the latest most relevant advice and factsheets from the Ministry of Health (MoH).

You can also find these updates and factsheets here;

[COVID-19 \(novel coronavirus\) - Ministry of Health website](#)

[COVID-19 \(novel coronavirus\): Information for Early Learning Services](#)

To summarize the latest information and advice we are working to, the key points are;

- ECEs must follow and enforce health and safety policies around good hygiene.
 - 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
 - Covering coughs and sneezes with clean tissues or with an elbow
 - Putting used tissues in the bin
 - Encouraging parents to keep children at home if they are unwell (see our traffic light posters on all classroom doors.)
- Do you have visiting friends or relatives or have you yourself recently returned from overseas visiting or transiting through China, Iran, Italy (in particular Northern Italy), South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore or Thailand. Please refer or refer your family or friends to the [latest information for travelers](#).
- 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 MoE, MoH and Public Health. For information about self-isolation for everyone involved, see the [MoH 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.

Our teachers are incorporating additional hygiene teaching to the usual daily routines. A fun lesson we've seen is using glitter to show children how far it may travel when you cough or sneeze (by blowing on it), compared to seeing glitter go into a tissue or elbow when pretending to cough or sneeze. It's also fun to see how far glitter on a child's hands may spread or how long it takes to wash all the glitter off their hands.

We have many fixed hand sanitizer dispensers around the Centre and are putting other sanitizer options in obvious places to assist with keeping hands sanitized between washes.

We are taking advice and following MoE guidelines for planning for all possible eventualities. Any decisions that impact the daily routines or opening hours of Wee Nippers will be as directed to us by MoE and Public Health.

At present there have been no school or ECE closures. When we consider the impact on our community should this be required, we sincerely hope that this does not eventuate, but will follow the direction we are given by MoE and Public Health.

In the meantime, we ask that you to follow all MoH and Public Health advice to the public and the advice we have reiterated. Please consider the potential impact on the whole community of not following this advice or our Centre policies around illness and attendance.

If you have any questions, please contact Nat, Rachel, Simone or George.

Kind regards

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