

19 March 2020

Dear parent, caregiver or staff member

A referee at recent school basketball games has been identified as a close contact of someone with coronavirus (COVID-19). The man himself does NOT have the illness, and was not infectious while refereeing the games.

As a close contact, the person is in isolation at home, and is being supported by health authorities. He was not symptomatic while at the games and remains well.

Please understand that people are not considered at risk if they have been close to a close contact – as the close contact did not have the disease. Contacts of close contacts, such as these students, do not need to self-isolate.

He refereed games involving the following teams - Northcote Primary, Northcote Intermediate, St Joseph's Primary, Kingsway School, Murrays Bay Intermediate, Rosmini College, Ponsonby Primary, Manuka Primary, Bayfield Primary and St Mary's College (intermediate level).

Please be reassured we consider there to be minimal risk to students, staff or others at your school.

We are not advising schools to close for a few days as happened at Logan Park High School in Dunedin. This is only necessary when there is an actual case in the school itself with a person confirmed with the virus. There is no confirmed case in your school.

The latest evidence shows that – unlike influenza - there is a very low risk that a person is able to transmit the virus before they have symptoms.

This is a significant update from the initial international views. Please be assured that we are providing our advice based on the most up-to-date information we have from here and overseas.

There will be commentary in social and other media. Please ask your children not to post any information on social media as this could lead to online abuse. [Netsafe](#) provides guidance on online behaviour.

For more information, visit the [ARPHS](#) or the [Ministry of Health](#) websites, or if you have health concerns around COVID-19 call Healthline on 0800 358 5453.

Auckland Regional Public Health Service