

For our Whanau at Te Kura Rautau, (From the MOE)

To hopefully clarify and make things a little easier to understand about **COVID-19**. There is a picture below to help explain what this means.

Whanau can access the latest information and guidance about **COVID-19** via the MOH and MOE websites.

What does it mean if there is talk of a '**School Closure**' (written by Ministry of Health - MoH)

“The current stance of the MoH and the Government is to encourage schools to remain open unless instructed to do so, as in Dunedin. There is certainly a high level of anxiety in the community and this will most likely be heightened in smaller communities. I see this is only for a couple of days. The situation described appears to be very low risk and as noted relates to a contact of a contact for whom we (Medical Officers of Health) would not recommend exclusion for reasons of trying to contain infection.”

Definition of 'Close and Casual' Contacts

Regarding queries about whether students should be kept at home, the information from the Ministry of Health website makes it quite clear that only those identified as a close contact of someone confirmed with **COVID19** needs to self-isolate, while casual contacts do not. The exception might be children of close contacts where it is likely to be challenging for families to manage the conditions required for self-isolation.

Close contact

A close contact is anyone who has been close to someone with **COVID-19**. This can mean living in the same house or spending more than 15 minutes close to someone with **COVID-19** such as on a flight, bus or train or in your workplace.

Casual contact

A casual contact is someone who has had contact with a case but doesn't meet the criteria for a close contact. This could mean someone travelling on the same aeroplane who was seated away from the case. For example, they were only close to the person with **COVID-19** for less than 15 minutes or were at the same place but not near them.

