

# Information on COVID-19 in your school or early learning service

If there was a confirmed or probable case linked with your school or early learning service, you will be advised of that by the Medical Officer of Health or your local public health authority.

Our regional Ministry of Education staff will work with your school and local health authorities to agree on a plan. That will happen quickly and **support will be provided to assist you to communicate with and support your parent community and staff.**

If the person or persons who are a confirmed or probable case have worked in or attended your school/service when they could have been infectious (which could start up to 2 days prior to having symptoms) your school/service will be closed for at least 72 hours to allow time for contact tracing and a clean of the school/service to align with Ministry of Health guidelines.

Close contacts at your school/service will include anyone who had:

- face-to-face contact in any setting within two metres of a case for 15 minutes or more
- having been in a closed environment (eg, a classroom, hospital waiting room) within 2 metres of a case for 15 minutes or more

Close contacts will be required to self-isolate and will need to monitor for symptoms. There is information about [self-isolation](#) and [Factsheets for contacts](#) on the Ministry of Health website.

## Further closure for up to 14 days

In addition to closure for 72 hours for contact tracing health authorities could require closure for longer periods of time, up to 14 further days. This is likely to be because health authorities consider there could be risk of community transmission or there could be a large number of cases within a school or early learning service that mean a high proportion of children, students and staff could be considered close contacts and therefore need to self-isolate.

## Support is available for you

A reminder that Healthline continues to be available to support anyone who might be experiencing symptoms or who has been asked to self-isolate - call for free on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453).

If you become aware of a case associated with your school or early learning service and haven't received notification from health authorities, please contact your local public health unit or your local Ministry of Education contact for information and support:

- [Public health unit contacts](#)
- [Local Ministry of Education contacts](#)