

## **Ministry of Education Bulletin: Wednesday 25 March.**

### **State of Emergency declared**

A nationwide message will go out to all of New Zealand between 6pm and 7pm this evening. It is vital that all your community understand how crucial it is that they self-isolate within their group, minimise travel, practice physical distancing when outside their group and outside, and practise very good hygiene for the next 4 weeks.

There will be no tolerance for people who don't self-isolate.

### **Schools are closed**

After 11.59pm today, **no one** is to go on-site to schools during the lockdown. If there is an emergency Police and/or Fire services will respond. All playgrounds will be closed; this includes playgrounds in schools

### **School Holidays Brought Forward**

School holidays are being brought forward so that they are completed within the 4 week period. Holidays will now begin from **Monday 30 March to Tuesday 14 April inclusive** (a reminder that the Tuesday after Easter Monday is always a closed day for schools).

At the end of the school holidays, schools will be open for distance learning but not physically open for staff to work at the schools.

### **Government announcement about children aged 0 – 14 of Essential Workers**

Where possible, essential workers need to make their own arrangements for childcare from Thursday 26 March until the end of the lockdown, due to limited capacity. Where this is not possible alternative arrangements have been made so essential workers can continue to work.

### **What essential workers need to know when making their own arrangements**

Essential workers will need to use their existing networks for in-home care, for example, a neighbour, relative, friend or current carer/nanny who can come to their house, or provide childcare in their own home. There are Public Health rules that must be observed.

- The person caring for your child becomes part of your self-isolating group
- This group must remain the same for the whole period
- The carer must not care for children from other households (other than their own) over the same period
- If a child or carer becomes unwell, they must stay at home.

### **If essential workers do not have access to childcare through their own networks**

If essential workers are unable to access childcare to perform their essential service, the government will fund other licensed childcare providers (for example through PORSE, Barnados and Edubase / Home Grown Kids) to provide in-home care to the children aged 0-14 of essential workers. The carer would be subject to the same Public Health rules as set out above.

For the purposes of providing care to children of essential workers, the in-home carer will be classified as an essential worker in both cases.

### **Initial list of contact details for providers**

- [Barnados website](#) - email [covid19enquiries@barnardos.org.nz](mailto:covid19enquiries@barnardos.org.nz) or call 0800 BARNARDOS (0800 227 627)
- [Edubase / Home Grown Kids website](#) or call 0508 44 54 37 or email [info@hgk.co.nz](mailto:info@hgk.co.nz)
- [PORSE website](#) 0800 023 456

**End of Bulletin.**