



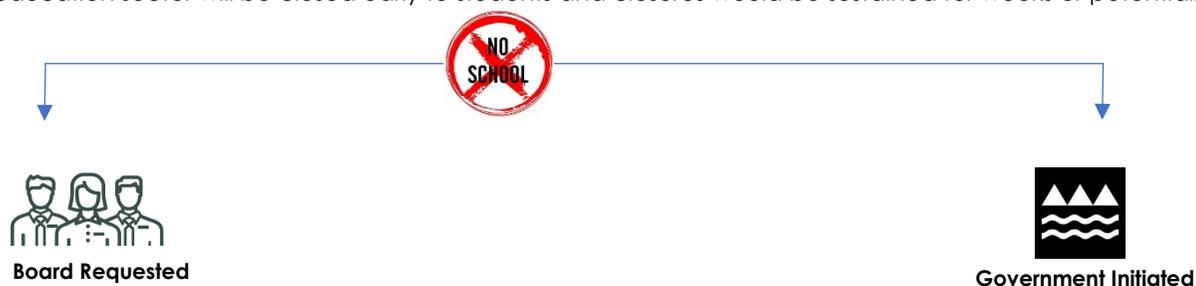
# KingsWay School

To be a Christian community of learning that nurtures young people towards their full potential as servant leaders in the Kingdom of God.

## CIRCUMSTANCES FOR SCHOOL CLOSURE

The Ministry of Health advises the potential effects of a Covid-19 pandemic in New Zealand might be that there are...

- periods of very high staff and student absence rates and an
- expectation that the education sector will be closed early to students and closures would be sustained for weeks or potentially months



We must be prepared for high rates of staff absences for many reasons such as...

- illness or incapacity (suspected or actual)
- their need to stay at home to care for sick dependents
- they may feel safer working from home (for example, to keep out of crowded places such as public transport – public transport may cease)
- others may need to stay at home to look after pre-school and school-aged students (as early childhood education services and schools may be closed).

However, the board needs to be prepared to request from the MoE permission to close when staffing levels have fallen to a level whereby the health and safety of students and staff is both potentially and actually put at risk. KingsWay will therefore action this request upon fulfilling the following conditions.

**KingsWay School must have a minimum of 3 teachers.** (This would presently allow for 3 classes of 36 students.) It would be assumed that the number in each class would be smaller than this with students being absent as well as staff. The Board would deem classrooms of any larger size to be contrary to prevention of spread guidelines.

The request for closure would be made to the school's senior MoE advisor:

**Kirsty Ross: Senior Advisor:**

- 027 504 6228 or 09 632 9417

Should pandemic Covid-19 rapidly spread within New Zealand the education sector would most probably be one of the first sectors to be closed and closures sustained.

Boards of trustees and principals will need to take direction from health authorities regarding any enforced closures. Health authorities will ensure they use their powers of closure in ways that would be helpful to a cohesive national response. For example, cluster control of a pandemic in Auckland may not trigger closures elsewhere in the country.

Education delivery is not expected to continue during a Covid-19 pandemic. In a pandemic early and enforced sustained closure of education facilities to children and students is the most likely scenario.

During a pandemic the Chief Medical Officer of Health (Ministry of Health) or local Medical Officers of Health, or another designated officer attached to the public health service would provide leadership, direction and guidance as to what to do – remain open, close or reopen.