

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 of our 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 practice 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, including the playgrounds. If there is an emergency Police and/or Fire services will respond.

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.

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 or call 0800 BARNARDOS (0800 227 627)

Edubase / Home Grown Kids website or call 0508 44 54 37 or email info@hgk.co.nz

PORSE website 0800 023 456

Kia kaha whanau. We can do this together!!