

Coronavirus key messages for Schools with homestay families

Young people are currently returning to homestay accommodation from China. The health of students and homestay families is a priority, and up to date information for schools, parents and carers is available on the [Ministry of Education website](#) and the [Ministry of Health website](#). Information on these websites will be regularly updated.

If homestay families have concerns about hosting students who may have been exposed to the virus, they should first contact the student's school.

The advice says that schools encourage students returning from China to voluntarily stay away from school for 14 days from leaving China.

If a student does not show signs of illness after 14 days, then they should return to school and continue their studies as normal.

Homestay carers already look after international students who are sick. This responsibility is set out in the contract between the school and the homestay. Should homestay carers be unwilling to take a student who has returned from China until after the stay home period the school will need to find a short-term solution until the 14 days has ended. Any short-term accommodation should still be in safe accommodation with carers who have been subject to police checks, etc, as set out in the Code.

If homestay carers or your students have concerns, they should contact Healthline on 0800 611 116, or the GP for medical advice. Healthline has translators and interpreters available 24/7 in 150 languages, and they do have Mandarin and Cantonese speaking staff available.

We want to reassure homestay carers that if a student is staying home, it is a precautionary measure, and that the student does not need to be supervised if they are not ill and over 14. It is important that international students continue to feel welcome and are not isolated.

Please keep updated through the website links above. If you have specific questions about pastoral care, please call NZQA's Code team on 0800 697296.