



28 February 2021

Kia ora e te whaanau,

### **School Covid Update**

In Phase 3 of the Omicron response, the key change is that only confirmed cases and their household contacts need to self-isolate.

Everyone else, including those who may have had close contact with the case but aren't in the household, must continue to monitor very closely for any symptoms of COVID-19. If symptoms do present then please stay at home and get advice about getting a test for COVID-19 as soon as possible. Rapid antigen tests (RATs) mean that you will get an almost immediate test result back if a RAT is used.

If anyone in your family is confirmed as having COVID-19, you will be asked to notify your close contacts yourself. Please get in touch with us at school as soon as you can if your child has tested positive for COVID-19.

The most recent guidelines from the Ministry of Education on managing COVID in our schools no longer require classmates or teachers to isolate and be tested if a classmate tests positive. You are of course encouraged to send your child to school as normal if they do not have symptoms or are not unwell.

Finally, we know how hard the impacts on COVID-19 have been for many families in New Zealand. If you know of a family in your community who is struggling, please encourage them to reach out for support for example to access food, medicine, or access financial support: [Help is available – COVID-19 Health Hub](#).

If you have any concerns about sending your child to school, please do get in touch. We are here to help. If your child is at home isolating please let us know so we can organise whatever school work is appropriate. We'd love to talk to you directly about how we can support your child at home with whatever work can be managed.

#### Symptoms of COVID-19

- A new or worsening cough
- Sneezing and runny nose
- A fever
- Temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath

There can be some less common symptoms such as diarrhoea, headache, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, malaise, chest pain, abdominal pain, joint pain, or confusion/irritability. For more information, go to

<https://covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/about-covid-19/covid-19-symptoms/>

Yours sincerely

David Cooke, Principal

# What type of contact are you?

