

25 February 2022

Dear parents and caregivers

Re: Covid-19 Update

You may well have seen the headlines in the media about the numbers of cases being seen in schools. Please don't be alarmed by this. It is only natural that as cases in our community increase, they will appear in our school. We have good systems in place to respond to this and prevent the spread of the virus.

As a parent/caregiver please continue to keep a really close watch of your children for anyone with symptoms. If **unwell**, please stay at home and get advice about getting a COVID-19 test.

Close contacts change

With Phase 3 of the Covid response, the key change is that it is only confirmed cases and their household contacts who need to self-isolate. Everyone else, including those who may have had close contact with the case but are not in the household, are able to come to school. They must continue to monitor very closely for any symptoms of COVID-19.

This will ease some of the pressure we have on staff and student absence.

Year 13 Rostering Home

In order to cover the teachers who are isolating at home, year 13 will learn online for the week starting Monday 28 February. At the start of the week teaching staff will be providing on-line learning work for them on *Google Classroom*. They will all return to school on Monday 7 March. The school will reassess our covid rostering plan later in that week and advise parents if any changes are to be made.

RATS testing

Rapid antigen tests (RATs) are now being used to diagnose COVID-19 as well as PCR tests. This means 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 as soon as you can if your child has tested positive for COVID-19.

Returning to school from isolation

Students who are currently isolating in homes where there is no confirmed positive covid case can return to school on Monday. There is no need to complete the full 7 day isolation period.

Finally, we know how hard the impact of COVID-19 has 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 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.

Regards

I L Ropati
Principal