

21 February 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Student and staff member test positive for Covid-19

This is to advise you that we have received notification of three students and a staff member who have tested positive for covid -19. We have identified all their close contacts and they are currently off-site isolating. Because of the expected volume of close contacts within our school, we will attempt to continue with personal contact followed by an email notification home.

Our message to all of our school community is to ensure that we all continue to follow the guidance provided by the Ministry of Health with regards to:

- Vaccinations - this is our strongest defence against covid
- Masks - must be worn at all times
- Hygiene - regular hand washing
- Symptoms - stay home if you feel unwell

The number of active covid cases continues to rise and we are constantly on high alert. At our school we have started to see an increase in staff and students being identified as close contacts and therefore requiring isolation.

Year level rostering home

In order for the school to remain open, we need to ensure we have enough staff on site at any given time. Unfortunately, there is a serious shortage of teacher relievers for us to call upon and we are anticipating that there will be significant shortages of teaching staff as covid continues to spread in our community.

For this reason, we have decided to take the proactive step to roster home year levels starting from next week. Students will engage in the school's online learning programme for their designated week and not attend school. (see table below)

In the event that we get a sudden surge of covid-19 cases that prevent staff from working from school **before** the start of next week, then we may have to expedite the planned approach. If that situation is realised then the school will provide parents with as much notice as possible.

School week	Dates	Year level learning at home
Week 4	28 Feb - 4 March	Year 13 students
Week 5	7 March - 11 March	Year 12 students
Week 6	14 March - 18 March	Year 11 students
Week 7	21 March - 25 March	Year 10 students
Week 8	28 March - 1 April	Year 9 students
Week 9	4 April - 8 April	Year 13 students
Week 10	11 April - 14 April	Year 12 students

While this will certainly be an inconvenience, we believe that it will ensure we do not close the school completely. Our on-line learning programme will engage students learning at home, while at the same time other year levels will proceed as normal. Staff will make contact with students relating to the specific expectations of their on-line learning, but for most subjects the work will be available on Google Classroom.

Students who are learning from home **do not** have any quarantine obligations and can continue to participate in any co-curricular activities such as sport training without any other isolation requirements.

Teacher Paid Union Meeting

The PPTA, teacher's union, has advised me and our board that they intend having a meeting on Wednesday 2 March from 2.20pm. The meeting will not impact on our senior students as they will have left school by the start of the meeting. However, our junior students (Year 9 and Year 10) will remain at school until 3.20pm with either their regular teacher or a reliever supervising them for P5.

Athletics Day

Due to the current uncertainty around the Covid outbreak a decision has been made to cancel the Year 9 Athletics day scheduled for Thursday 24 February.

I appreciate that this is unsettling at the start of a new year but it is unavoidable. We will continue to take advice from the Ministry of Education and Health to work through this challenge as smoothly and quickly as possible.

We thank you for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely

Mr I L Ropati
Principal