



11 March 2022

Kia ora koutou,

As you will know, arrangements around isolation have changed. Based on the information we have received, the following is the new arrangement for staff and students at our school:

Cases of COVID-19

Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for seven days.

Day 0 is the day symptoms began or the day the test was taken (whichever came first). Cases will isolate for a full seven days and are free to return to normal activities on Day 8, if they are not symptomatic.

Household contacts

Household contacts are required to isolate for the same seven days as the case.

They can return to their normal activities on the same day as the first case in their household, so long as all test results have been negative, and they are not symptomatic.

Household contacts should continue to self-monitor for symptoms up to Day 10.

Household contacts will be required to take a self-administered rapid antigen test (RAT) on Day 3 and Day 7 of the case's isolation period.

If symptoms develop at any time during isolation:

- the usual advice remains in place to undertake an additional RAT;
- if the test is negative and symptoms persist or worsen, test again 48 hours after that negative test;
- if symptoms resolve there is no need for a further test until the required Day 7 test. If this is negative, they can return to daily life on Day 8.

If a household contact has new symptoms on the day of release:

- they should undertake an additional RAT and stay at home while unwell;
- if that test is negative and symptoms persist or worsen, test again after 48 hours. If symptoms resolve, there is no need for a further test.

If a household contact has finished their period of isolation they do not need to return to isolation if a new case is identified in their household. However, **this only applies for a period of seven days** following their leaving isolation.

Should a new household member be confirmed as a case eight or more days after the household contact has left isolation, then they must start a new period of self-isolation for seven days.

If any of the requirements change, I will let you know as soon as I can. Always remember, the best information comes from Healthline or your family doctor.

All children at Kirkwood can access online learning while they are away. Your classroom teacher will have told your children how to access it, but may not be able to supervise this online work while they are also teaching a class. We will do our best to reply to any questions from children who are at home, but it may not be straight away.

Please can we ask that you inform the school if your child tests positive, or if they are isolating. We need to inform the Ministry about the number of cases we have in our school community, as this provides valuable information to the Ministry of Health. No case is identified in this reporting, we only report the number of new cases each day. Currently we have 16 confirmed covid cases and 25 close contacts who are isolating. It is expected that these numbers will continue to rise. It does seem that most transmission is happening outside of school, so please continue to send your children to school, as long as they are well – if this changes, you will be informed, and we may need to move to the next stage in our plan.

As always, we appreciate your understanding and support as we work through this challenging and changing environment. Please feel welcome to contact the school should you have any queries.

Ngā mihi nui

Phil Tappenden
Principal