

24 February 2022

Kia ora koutou

I apologise for the extra communication today, but I promised I would be transparent at all times, and I have a further positive test to report.

One of our Year 11 students has tested positive this afternoon. The student was symptomatic, and tested positive with an RAT test today. The student was in school on Monday and Tuesday but not yesterday or today. Once again, I would like to thank the student and the student's family: they have been cautious and sensible, and so have limited other students' exposure to the virus.

In my email this morning, I explained that we would take a different approach in College than in Primary. So this afternoon, at the same time as you are reading this, we are talking to the Year 11 students and giving them an RAT test to take home and use this evening. Please ensure that they take this test correctly. The link to the instructions is here:

<https://www.pinehurst.school.nz/media/2742/rat-instructions.pdf> If they test negative, they are able to come into school tomorrow. If they test positive, they and their family will need to self-isolate for 10 days.

I know this will feel as though there are many cases arriving at the same time, but please bear in mind that we have tested over 300 people in the last 24 hours and there have been no new positives in any of the tests we have run at school. The positive tests are unconnected with each other, and we do not yet have any evidence that there has been any transmission in school.

Other high schools (Year 9 to 13) have taken the route of not informing parents after cases emerge: students are sent home to isolate, and everyone else continues coming into school. We prefer to remain transparent and, as I said earlier, to use RATs as an extra level of precaution. I outlined our approach this morning and, although I didn't expect to have to use it quite so quickly, this is how we are going to proceed. For our senior students, it is the sensible approach to take, protecting their education and, as I say, the RATs will help us limit the spread of infection as much as possible.

The link to this morning's email is here: <https://www.pinehurst.school.nz/media/2744/24-february-2022.pdf>

Please feel free to contact me and ask any questions you may have.

Kind regards,

Alex.

Alex Reed

Executive Principal

Pinehurst School

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