

28 February 2022

Kia ora koutou

I hope you have had a good weekend, and that your Monday has started well too. As promised, I'm going to continue to offer updates on the situation at school, and to make sure that you feel as informed as possible. It's an unsettling time, of course, and it can help to have an accurate picture of what's happening at school.

Firstly, I would like to send my very best wishes to the families who are currently self-isolating. **There are currently nine students from seven families who have tested positive** - please see below for the details of the five new cases we have had since Friday - and some of those students also have siblings. In addition, we have a few students in families where the parents or a sibling at another school are unwell. We also have a small number of staff who are isolating. To each of these families: stay well, and know we are thinking of you. Thank you too for the prompt, open way you have kept the school informed, answering my questions without complaint.

The new cases:

- A student in Year 8 tested positive on Saturday. The student had not been in school since Wednesday, and has a sibling in Year 10 who has tested negative, and is still negative today. Neither student is, therefore, likely to have been infectious while at school.
- A student in Year 4 tested positive on Sunday. The student was in the same class as the Year 4 student who tested positive last week, and has not been in school since Wednesday, so has not been infectious while at school. The student has a sibling in Year 1 who has so far tested negative. The sibling was in school on Thursday and Friday. As the sibling has no symptoms and has not tested positive, s/he is unlikely to have been infectious at school.
- A student in Year 7 tested positive this morning. The last time the student was in school was last Wednesday, so the student will not have been infectious while at school. S/he has a sibling in Year 2 who has no symptoms but who has just tested positive. The sibling was in school until about 10.30 am this morning, and it is possible that s/he was infectious in school. We have therefore moved to online learning for the sibling's Year 2 class on Tuesday and Wednesday. We will be running RATs for the class before school on Thursday and Friday.
- A student in Year 12 has tested positive this afternoon. The student's sibling, who goes to another school, became positive on Saturday, and the student has been isolating since then. The student was almost certainly not infectious while in school.

All families affected will be isolating for ten days.

RAT testing in school

We tested all the Year 4, 7 and 8 students before they returned to classes today. All tests in school were negative and no students had any Covid / cold symptoms. This is good news. I do think that we have seen a little in-school transmission (the Year 4 students), but it is also clear that there has not been widespread transmission in school so far.

Online learning

- Students who are isolating at home in College can join lessons that are taking place in school through Teams. All work is available on Schoolbox and/or One Note.
- In Primary, we currently have online learning for students who have to self-isolate (only those who have no other choice). There are three classes (New Entrants, Year 1-3 and Year 4-6). If the teacher is unwell, unfortunately, we do not have a relief teacher available for these classes.
- We may move to “hybrid” learning (a choice of online and in-school learning) in Primary this week. It will depend on whether we have additional cases. We will not do this in College.

Finally, can I ask a favour? If any member of the family is symptomatic, please do not send your child to school until the member of the family who is sick has had a negative test. No children with symptoms should be at school, of course, but the safest way to behave right now is to assume that Covid-like symptoms are probably Covid, so please be additionally cautious. My advice is to be wary, also, of larger social gatherings at the moment.

I'll write again tomorrow with a further update.

Ngā mihi
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