

4 March 2022

Kia ora tatou

I hope you are well, and looking forward to a quiet weekend. My Covid update today is a little fuller than it has been the last couple of days. This is because we have had one positive case and a couple of household contacts that are likely to become positive cases. We have also tested a large number of students this morning.

Attendance

Firstly, a huge thank you to the community for your continued support of the school. Just short of 40% of Primary parents have chosen the in-school option for their children this week, and we are currently asking them to make the choice for next week. Attendance in online Primary lessons has been close to 100%

In College, we have continued to have 90% or more of our students in school, with a small number of students self-isolating because they have either tested positive or are household contacts. Some of these students will be back next week as they are no longer symptomatic, and will be tested on their return to school.

New Cases

A Year 13 student tested positive last night. He was probably infectious in school on Wednesday and Thursday, and he has symptoms. He has a sibling in Year 6 who has tested negative again today and who has no symptoms. The Year 13 student is the only new positive student case we have had since Monday.

However, we do have students in Years 6 (the sibling of the Year 13 student), 9 and 11 who are household contacts and may test positive this weekend.

Rapid Antigen Testing

- This morning, we tested all students in Year 6 who have been in school on Wednesdays and Thursday this week. All students tested negative.
- We also tested all Year 9 students this morning because one student became a household contact last night and has been in school. The student who is a household contact tested negative last night and has no symptoms. All Year 9 students tested negative.
- And we tested all Year 13 students who were in school this morning, plus all Year 12 students who had been in lessons with the Year 13 student who has tested positive. We also tested students who were in the same POD as the student who has tested positive. All test results were negative.

For extra peace of mind, we have given all of the students we tested in Years 12 and 13 an additional test to take home. This test should be run this weekend: if there are any positive results, please let me know straightaway.

We are also giving all Year 11 students a test to take home this afternoon. They should complete this test at the weekend. This is also for additional peace of mind.

On Monday, we will be testing any P8 or P9 students who come back into school, as well as running additional testing if the need arises over the weekend.

As you can see, we are being exceptionally careful in our usual manner. We continue to have a number of household contacts, and it seems still to be the case that we are not seeing much transmission in school. We have had just one new confirmed case in four days, but we do expect a couple more over the weekend.

These are low numbers, and the most significant factor in keeping them low is the carefulness of the whole community: being cautious and acting quickly to test and keep children home if they are unwell, or if someone in the house seems as though they are developing symptoms, is the best protection we can offer each other. It means that fewer of our children and staff will develop the illness, and that our students have much less disruption to their education.

So thank you! And thank you once again to our amazing, adaptable and resilient staff, who just keep making things work.

Kind regards
Alex

Alex Reed

Executive Principal

Pinehurst School

a: 75 Bush Road, Albany, Auckland 0632, NZ

t: +64 (0)9 414 0960 EXT 603

m: +64 (0)21 194 8584

e: Alex.Reed@pinehurst.school.nz

www.pinehurst.school.nz

