

13 March 2022

Kia ora tatou

My apologies for the extra email on a Sunday afternoon. I'm just trying to make sure that we keep the information flowing at the moment. A reminder, too, that we publish all of these emails on our website in the "Covid" space, so if you need to refer to them at any point... that's where they are.

Thank you to all parents and students for keeping me so well-informed this weekend. As you will see, we have had a mini-cluster of cases in Year 10 over the last few days, and it's been hugely helpful that the parents concerned have let me know so quickly, allowing us to inform the affected parents immediately. So to the Year 10 parents: apologies for yet another email!

New Cases

Since Friday afternoon, we have had 7 cases. Six of these cases are in Year 10, and one case is in Year 9, but the Year 9 case is directly connected to the Year 10 cases:

- A Year 10 student tested positive on Friday night. He has mild symptoms, and probably caught the virus from a friend who catches the same bus as him, and who tested positive on Thursday. He may have been infectious at school on Thursday and Friday.
- Another Year 10 student tested positive on Friday night. She also has mild symptoms and probably caught the virus from a friend who tested positive on Thursday. She may have been infectious at school on Thursday and Friday.
- Two Year 10 students (who are good friends) tested positive on Saturday. They also have mild symptoms and probably caught the virus from a friend who tested positive on Thursday. They may have been infectious at school on Thursday and Friday.
- Another Year 10 student tested positive on Saturday. He caught the virus from a student who tested positive on Thursday, and was not at school on Friday. There is a chance that he was infectious at school on Thursday.
- A final Year 10 student tested positive on Saturday. She probably caught the virus a week ago at an event not connected with school, and she has not been at school for the last week, and so has not been infectious at school.
- A Year 9 student tested positive this morning. She is a close contact - car sharing - with one of the Year 10 students who has tested positive. It is possible that she was infectious at school on Friday.

I know this will feel like quite a large number, but it is actually in line with our expectations. There have been no cases outside this cluster this weekend, and it's just bad luck that these particular students have tested positive. They have all had close contact with someone who has tested positive, and we can see how the transmission has taken place. In some cases, a particular bus (the Warkworth bus) has been a connection.

Rapid Antigen Testing tomorrow

We will be testing more widely than planned tomorrow. This is because, although we are continuing to be more targeted in most cases, the nature of the Year 10 cluster means that we should test the entire year group.

We will be testing:

- All Year 10 students
- Selected Year 9 students (a small group, and I will write separately to those parents)
- All of the Warkworth bus students (#7 bus)
- All Greenhithe / West Harbour bus students (#3 bus)
- All staff returning to school after isolation
- All students returning to school after isolation
- Staff who wish to be tested because they have had close contact with people who have tested positive

If your child fits into one of those categories, please ask them to come straight to the Dance Studio when they arrive at school.

Returning staff and students

I have a favour to ask. Would you be able to talk to your children, please, to ensure that they are positive and welcoming to all the students (and staff!) who are returning to school after isolation? Every person returning is symptom-free, has tested negative, and is less likely to be infectious than just about anyone else in the school! Most children have taken the whole thing in their stride, but a few children need a little support and extra kindness.

As ever, let me know if you have any questions at all. My best wishes to all of you, and especially warm wishes to those children and families who are unwell or isolating. Our thoughts are with all of you.

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

