



01 March 2022

Kia ora koutou,

Today we have had our first confirmed cases of COVID19 in our school. Thank you to the whanau for taking the right steps and aiming to keep our community safe.

As we are a small community school and have a mixture of children on the buses and in the playground, please be vigilant in monitoring symptoms.

Key points to remember:

- If your child has any symptoms of illness, please keep them home and get tested.
- We will send children home who have symptoms.
- Let us know if your child tests positive.
- Let us know if your child has to isolate due to a household member testing positive.
- If your child tests positive or has to isolate, we have options for home learning. The teachers will be using Seesaw as the main contact for learning from home. You can also, if required, request a hard pack.
- Our Teacher Reliever pool is very small and we may need to split classes to cover teachers who are sick or required to isolate.
- It may be necessary for classes to learn from home if we do not have enough staff.
- Children **ARE NOT** expected to learn from home when they are sick.
- **Children who are not sick, are not positive, or are not isolating due to being a household contact, are able to come to school.**
- Get in touch with school if you have any concerns.

With Phase 3 of the Omicron response, it is only confirmed cases and their household contacts who need to self-isolate. Everyone else, including those who may have had close contact with the case but aren't in the household, must continue to monitor very closely for any symptoms of COVID-19.

Symptoms can include one or more of the following:

- a new or worsening cough
- sneezing and runny nose
- a fever
- temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste
- sore throat
- shortness of breath.

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Less common symptoms may include:

- diarrhoea
- headache
- muscle pain or body aches
- nausea
- vomiting
- malaise — a general feeling of discomfort, illness or unease
- chest pain
- abdominal pain
- joint pain
- confusion or irritability.

These less common symptoms almost always occur with one or more of the common symptoms. The symptoms do not necessarily mean you have COVID-19 and are like other illnesses that are much more common, such as colds and flu. Testing is the only way to confirm.

Rapid antigen tests (RATs) are being used to diagnose COVID-19 as well as PCR tests. This means that you will get an almost immediate test result back if a RAT is used.

If anyone in your family is confirmed as having COVID-19, you will be asked to notify your close contacts yourself. Please get in touch with us as soon as you can if you or your child has tested positive for COVID-19.

Transmission of COVID-19 is still most likely to happen in your home – so please keep doing all those good things to keep your whānau safe. Wash your hands, get lots of fresh air, cover any coughs and sneezes, clean surfaces regularly, and seek advice if anyone is not feeling well. And please wear a mask when you are out and about. There is information online to help your family [prepare to isolate](#) if you need to.

The most important advice we can give to keep your whānau safe is to act as if you have COVID-19. More than a third of people who have COVID-19 will not have any symptoms if they have had three doses of the vaccine. Please think about who you visit and what health measures you can put in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

If you have any concerns about sending your child to school, please do get in touch.

We have got this! We're doing it together!! Everything is going to be OK!
We are here to help.

Ngā mihi,

Rick

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