

8 March 2022

Kia ora tatou

I know I keep saying this, but it's been a lovely day in school again. The Year 7s have had a great (if rather hot) team building day, there have been small bicycles and scooters all over the place as part of our unofficial "wheels Part 1" week (there will be a part 2 later in the year when everyone's back in), and school has been settled and productive.

Thank you especially today to the staff who are covering for others online and in person. We are continuing to manage significant staff absence connected with teachers having to isolate, and this means that many of our staff are shuffling, adapting and making changes at the last minute, at the same time as ensuring that students just see a calm, structured plan.

New Cases

Since yesterday's message, we have had three new student cases:

- A Year 11 student who has been isolating at home as a household contact since last Wednesday has tested positive. She was not infectious at school, and has no siblings in school.
- A Year 11 student tested positive last night after developing mild symptoms yesterday afternoon. She was in school yesterday and so may have been infectious while at school. We have tested all Year 11 students this morning, as well as students in her POD and students who take the same bus as her. All of those students will be tested again tomorrow. She is likely to have become infectious from a contact outside school. She has siblings in Year 7 and 9 who are being monitored for symptoms and tested at home. They have so far tested negative.
- A Year 13 student tested positive yesterday afternoon. She has not been in school this week and so will not have been infectious while at school. She has a Year 8 sibling who is being monitored and tested at home. She has so far tested negative.

And we had more students come back to school today after their isolation period. It was great to see them. :)

As I said yesterday, I'm satisfied that we still have very little in-school transmission. It also seems to be the case that many of the students who are isolating as household contacts, usually of their parents, do not become infected, so there's obviously some impressive in-home isolation going on as well.

Rapid Antigen Testing

We tested all Year 11 students, the students from a POD, and students from one of the buses today, as well as a number of staff, siblings and returning students. All tests were negative.

Tomorrow, we will be testing **all** of the same students that we tested today, plus a few more returnees, some staff, siblings and any other students we feel we need to.

Staff Isolation

Today, we had 5 Primary teachers who were isolating, and 8 College teachers who were isolating. Of these 13 teachers, only 4 have developed Covid symptoms, with the remainder having to isolate as household contacts. At the moment, because we also have had a couple of teacher who are unwell for other reasons in Primary, we are feeling the impact of this more in Primary than in College, but please be patient if we have to do some additional shuffling this week. In a week's time, when staff start returning, the pressure on staffing should not be as great.

Many thanks again for all your support.

Kind regards,

Alex.

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