

9 March 2022

Kia ora tatou

I'm going to try to be very concise today! I'm writing this email while listening to a Ministry of Education meeting for Auckland Principals (I'm not discovering very much except that Principals in Primary Schools around Auckland are struggling with staff absences and paying for relievers) and feeling very grateful that I work at Pinehurst. Our Year 11 students have particularly impressed me this week, but I enjoy being with all our young people, and Year 7 and 8 have been a real joy this week too. They're always so friendly and enthusiastic.

New Cases

Since yesterday's message, we have had four new student cases (our numbers are being remarkably consistent):

- A Year 7 student tested positive last night and has mild symptoms. She was at school on Monday and Tuesday and may have been infectious on those days. She contracted the virus from a friend who does not go to Pinehurst, and we tested all Year 7 students this morning. We will test some Year 7s again tomorrow.
- A Year 11 student tested positive before school this morning as part of our screening. He probably picked up the virus from a non-school activity at the weekend, and he has no symptoms. He was possibly infectious on Monday and Tuesday, so we will be testing Year 11 students again tomorrow and Friday.
- A Year 9 student tested positive before school this morning. She caught the bus with a Year 11 student who tested positive yesterday, sitting next to her in both directions. She has no symptoms, and was not at school yesterday. There is therefore just a small chance that she will have been infectious on Monday, though the risk here is quite small.
- A Year 1 student who has been self-isolating for over a week tested positive this morning. He contracted the illness from his brother. He was unwell last night but is starting to feel better now. He cannot have been infectious while at school.

Once again, then, we are not seeing new cases from infections in school, which is good to see.

Also, in the Primary School, we have not had any new cases since the weekend, when we had three connected Year 4 cases.

We have had a number of teacher cases too: we will let parents know if any Primary teachers test positive if they have been in school and working with children while they may have been infectious. For other teachers and support staff, we will let parents know if we feel that the nature of their role means that we need to test students. So far, a total of 7 staff have tested positive: 3 Primary teachers, 3 College teachers and 1 member of the support team. Most of these staff have tested positive while already isolating because they are a household contact.

There has been a total of 23 students across the whole school who have tested positive. That's about 2% of the student body.

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. As I said above, we had one Year 11 positive case and one Year 9 positive case. The Year 11 case was probably from an activity at the weekend; the Year 9 case was probably from contact on the bus.

All other tests were negative.

Tomorrow, we will be testing:

- All Year 11 students
- A group of Year 7 students (we will inform parents separately who these are)
- A number of other students, including close friends of the Year 9 case - these students have already told us who they are, and we have tested them once
- The students on the Warkworth bus

Staff Isolation

Today, we once again had 4 Primary teachers who were isolating, and 8 College teachers who were isolating. Most of these teachers are currently delivering lessons online from home.

Many thanks again for all of your support. Kind regards

Alex

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