

14 March 2022

Kia ora koutou

I hope you've had a good day so far. School has been swimming along nicely in the sun today. Highlights for me have included observing a great Year 2 Music lesson, watching our Year 1 children play with the giant games on the top field, and observing Year 8s in PE. And, of course, supervising 250 RATs.

There's quite a bit to report today, but I'm actually quite reassured at the patterns we're seeing. I'll explain...

New Cases

Since yesterday's update, we have 8 new cases, as follows:

- A Year 11 student tested positive on Sunday. She probably contracted the virus from a dance class on Friday night and Saturday and so was not infectious in school. She has mild symptoms, and a sister in Year 9, who also will not have been infectious in school.
- A Year 10 student tested positive at home this morning. He is likely to be part of the Year 10 cluster, and is not likely to have been infectious in school. He has a brother in Year 8 who is back at school because he has already returned from isolation having tested positive and recovering from the virus. He is therefore not infectious.
- Two sisters, one in Year 7 and one in Year 8, tested positive at home this morning. They are part of a mini-cluster with a close friend, and are unlikely to have been infectious at school. They may be connected to the Year 7 case we had earlier last week.
- A Year 7 boy tested positive as part of our screening this morning. He is a close friend of the sister (above) who is in Year 7. He is asymptomatic. It is possible he was infectious on Friday. We have, though, tested his other close friends in Year 7, all of whom tested negative. He has no siblings at school.
- A Year 6 boy tested positive as part of our screening this morning. He is the younger brother of a Year 13 student who has recovered from the virus, and had previously tested negative at home. His parents are testing him again through a testing station to triple-check his status. He has not been in school and was therefore not infectious in school.
- A Year 2 boy who is already isolating at home has tested positive. He is the brother of a Year 4 boy who tested positive a week ago and he has not been at school for a week.
- A Year 13 student tested positive at home this afternoon. She is unlikely to have been infectious at school. She has a Year 9 brother who is now isolating, and who is currently being tested.

I'm aware that this will seem like a long list for us, but we tested very widely this morning and did not have any positive tests that suggested wider infections in school:

- There have again been no positive tests in the Primary School except for two students who were already at home and are likely to have caught the virus from their siblings
- No Year 10 or Year 8 students tested positive in school today. Nor did students from either bus that we tested
- The Year 7 and Year 9 testing we did - essentially close contacts or friends of students who had tested positive and who may have been infectious on Friday - were all negative.

The overall pattern is again, then, of isolated cases coming into school except for a small cluster in Year 10 of close friends and a mini-cluster in Year 7 of close friends.

Rapid Antigen Testing

We tested:

- All Year 10 students
- All Year 8 students
- Selected Year 7 and Year 9 students
- Students from buses #3 and #7
- Returning staff and students
- Some other staff who had potentially had contact with infectious students

One Year 6 and one Year 7 student tested positive (see above for details). No other students tested positive.

Tomorrow morning, we will test all Year 10 students, and selected Year 7 and Year 9 students, as well as returning staff and students. If there are developments before school starts tomorrow, we will test other students as necessary.

Staff Update

We were glad to welcome back a number of staff today, and there will be more staff returning each day this week. Today, there are 9 teachers isolating at home, either because they are a household contact or because they have tested positive within the last 7 days. In total, 10 members of staff have tested positive, three of whom have recovered fully and are back at school. This is around 7% of staff in school. About 4% of students have tested positive.

Finally, another word of thanks. The quick actions of parents and brilliant communication with each other and with school have enabled us to move quickly and to prevent additional potential infections in school today. Our testing picked up another couple of potential sources of infection too.

Have a lovely evening,

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

