

21 March 2022

Kia ora koutou

I hope you've all had a good weekend and that the rain hasn't dampened your spirits. We had some exciting floods in school that vanished within an hour; the Drama room sprang a leak; my office has again become a tad damp; and some panels in the Staffroom ceiling fell through, but nothing too terrible compared to many other places. If you had a flood this morning, I do hope it wasn't too bad, and that you've managed to dry things out quickly.

We've had a quiet weekend, so there isn't a great deal to report, I'm glad to say:

New Cases

We have had two news cases since Friday.

- A Year 10 student tested positive on Saturday. He has been isolating at home for over a week already and caught the virus from his family. He was not infectious while at school.
- A Year 5 student tested positive on Sunday evening. She almost certainly caught the virus from her father on Friday evening or over the weekend, which means she will not have been infectious while at school.

As you can see, this means that we have had no new cases that may have been infectious in school since last Wednesday. Indeed, we only had two cases who may have been infectious in school all last week, neither of which led to any additional cases.

There have now been a total of 54 students and 13 members of staff who have had Covid in the last four weeks, which is exceptionally low in comparison with other schools. There was one Primary teacher and there were two College teachers self-isolating today. All were teaching online.

Rapid Antigen Testing

We tested around 20 students and staff returning to school. One student tested positive on her 'Day 8' and so had to return home. All other tests were negative.

Just to clarify our policy around this, which is different to other schools. We still require a negative test on 'Day 8' to return to school. We know that some people continue to test positive for weeks after an infection, even though they are not infectious any more and have no symptoms. If this is the case, we will assess again at 'Day 10'. If a student or a member of staff has had Covid, has been free from symptoms for at least three days, and is testing a 'weak positive', I will consider allowing them back into school. This is, we think, still being very cautious, but also being fair and sensible.

Many thanks again to everyone for their care, caution and fantastic communication with the school. This makes it far easier to keep everyone safe, and I'm very grateful to you all.

Ngā mihi
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