

1 April 2022

Kia ora koutou

A quick update from me today - after all, it's a Friday and there's a full newsletter to read! I would like to start, though, by just reviewing our current position. As I've said a few times, we are extremely fortunate to have such a cautious, supportive community who have protected the school from the worst effects of the current Omicron outbreak of Covid-19. This has meant that we have had many fewer cases than comparable schools, and there have been only around 70 students (or 7% of the school population) who have become infected. As a result, most students' education has not been significantly disrupted. Only 10% of our staff have been infected, which has also reduced the impact on our students' experience.

And, of course, the low infection rates mean that fewer people have been ill. I'm glad to be able to say that nobody from our community has become seriously unwell, although the illness has been quite unpleasant for a number of people. If you have been affected like this, all of our very best wishes are with you.

This week (Saturday to Friday), there have been 9 students who had positive tests, only three of whom could have been infectious while at school; in the week before, there were 9 students who had positive tests, 6 of whom (largely in the Year 2 cluster) may have been infectious at school; the week before that, there were 25 cases; the week before that, there were 15.

In other words, the number of cases has reduced. We can't be sure where this will go, but we expect the pattern to be that we will have a similar number of cases each week moving forward, so we intend to continue our policies to reduce any potential spread.

New Cases

There have been two new cases in the past 24 hours.

A Year 4 student tested positive this morning, and has mild symptoms. She has been away from school since Tuesday, so will not have been infectious at school. She was already a household contact, and contracted the virus from a member of her family. She has a sister in a different year group who has tested negative, and her sister has also been away since Tuesday. My best wishes to the family, and many thanks to them once again for their caution in protecting others in the community.

A Year 6 student tested positive at home this morning with mild symptoms. He was in school yesterday and the day before, and may therefore have been infectious at school. He has a brother in a different year group who has tested negative and who is not at school today. It is possible that he contracted the virus at school, but we are not sure about this, as he has had no direct contact with the other Year 6 student who tested positive this week, and they are in different rooms. We tested all Year 6 students this morning, and all tests were negative. Our advice is for parents to be alert to any possible symptoms over the weekend if your child is in Year 6. My best wishes to both Year 6 families.

Rapid Antigen Tests

We tested all Year 6 students this morning, as well as a small number of returning students. All tests were negative.

Have a good weekend, enjoy the newsletter, and enjoy the sun!

Ngā mihi
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

