



One Tree Point School
“Empowering Learners Who CARE”

Kia ora e te whānau

As you are aware, we are now in ‘Phase 3’ of the Covid-19 response plan. The key change in Phase 3 is only confirmed cases and their household contacts need to self-isolate. Everyone else, including those who may have had close contact with the case but aren’t in the household, can continue to attend school but must continue to monitor very closely for any symptoms of COVID-19.

Like all other schools in New Zealand, we are expecting cases in the community and in school to increase over the coming weeks. Please don’t be alarmed, we have really good systems in place to respond to and keep the spread of the virus - should it appear - to a minimum.

You may have seen Dr Jin Russell in the media noting [research from New South Wales about their recent Omicron outbreak](#) showing that onward transmission within the school setting is very low. For every child who is infected and attends school only 3.7% of their close contacts at school subsequently tested positive. We have seen that in New Zealand too – public health teams on the ground have seen that even though cases pop up in schools, there has been very little onward spread through the school because of the protective measures we have in place.

This is why we remain open at Red. It’s great for a child’s wellbeing and learning to be at school with their friends and school staff, and we have very good systems in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Rapid antigen tests (RATs) are now being used to diagnose COVID-19 as well as PCR tests. This means that you will get an almost immediate test result back if a RAT is used.

If anyone in your family is confirmed as having COVID-19, you will be asked to notify your close contacts yourself. **Please get in touch with us as soon as you can if your child has tested positive for COVID-19.** I will let you know if there is a case in your child’s class, just so you can monitor your child for symptoms.

Finally, we know how hard the impacts on COVID-19 have been for many families in New Zealand. If you know of a family in your community who is struggling, please encourage them to reach out for support for example to access food, medicine, or access financial support: [Help is available – COVID-19 Health Hub](#).

If you have any concerns about sending your child to school, please do get in touch. We are here to help.

Nga mihi nui

Shirley Winters
Principal