

Kia ora Kahurangi whānau

It has been a week since our last Covid update and over this time the number of our students who have tested positive for Covid has doubled. Our count today is 47 students and 2 staff with Covid although some are now clear of it. I'm pleased to share there's been no exponential spread in classes. Quite a few of this number who have got Covid in the last week have contracted when isolating at home with a sick family member. We have noticed some spread across friend groups but when friends spend so much time together the chances increase.

I'm pleased to report that I'm hearing that students and whānau are managing and recovering well. Despite some getting quite sick with high temperatures and body aches in the first few days they're all reporting to be coming out of it well.

It has been nice to welcome back some of our children who have fully recovered or completed their time in isolation with members of their whānau having Covid. We're expecting a lot more to return next week which we're really happy about.

Whānau I want to thank you and acknowledge the excellent job you do of monitoring your children for symptoms, keeping them home when they're sick and having them tested if required. We're having hardly any children turn up to our sick bay which shows us that you are doing your job. When tamariki are unwell symptoms have come on very quickly.

If you or someone in your whanau tests positive for Covid 19

No doubt you will have heard that the requirements around isolation have changed. From midnight tonight, if someone in your whānau tests positive for Covid 19 your household must isolate for seven days. Everyone in your household must test on day 3 and day 7.

Returning to school after Covid-19

Students who test positive for Covid are not required to self-isolate past seven days, but they shouldn't return to school if they are still feeling unwell.

Some tamariki might have a long lasting runny nose or cough after viral infections. If it is over 10 days since the onset of the Covid infection and they are no longer feeling unwell, they are unlikely to be transmitting any active Covid infection and can return to school. However, if they are continuing to feel unwell or their symptoms are worsening after 10 days then GP review is recommended.

What we're doing

- We are staying open
- We are using public health measures to reduce the risk in our setting, including masks, hand sanitising, wiping down of frequently touched surfaces, good ventilation
- We are also monitoring our ventilation in learning spaces with a special CO2 monitor

If your children are learning from home

Hopefully you've been finding the learning packs provided suitable. I'm sure you'll understand it will never replace a real school day of learning in the classroom. Hopefully though it is engaging your child in some learning and they're able to tackle













it somewhat independently. We wanted to do this because we thought parents might not necessarily be well or you'd be working yourself.

If your tamariki have been home for a couple of weeks and you're expecting them to be home for a while longer please reach out or we'll be in contact to see how you're doing and if another learning pack is required.

Please note if we've been unable to reach you and there has been no communication with the school via Kyran, your child's teacher or through our office team your child is likely being marked 'absent' and not marked as 'learning from home'. If this is you, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

For those who are sick or recovering

You are in our thoughts and the only thing you should be doing is resting so you get better. Whānau if you're struggling please reach out!

Thank you for your ongoing support and messages of appreciation

Over the last few weeks, the teachers, staff and I have genuinely been touched with your messages of support and thanks for what we're doing at school. It means a lot to us and we're grateful to have such a supportive whānau community!

Whānau it feels weird to wish you a nice weekend when some of you are very unwell or in isolation. I want to say, to those of you at home, take care, look after one another and hopefully you're feeling better soon. To those of you who are well, enjoy your weekend and I hope you get some down time to do some things you love.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Kyran Smith | Principal











