

# COVID-19

## Frequently Asked Questions

In light of recent cases this information is to support our families with any Covid-19 queries, and what you need to do.

In advance we know that this will end up in disruptions to your lives and work, and thank you for your understanding and support.

Please note that we are not the “health experts”, but do know that the Ministry of Health may be delayed in providing advice/guidance to you.

Please also note that this information is subject to change, based on any updated guidelines from the Ministry of Education & Health.

### **Who do we advise if my child tests positive for Covid-19?**

Please contact Stephen Grady either via email or a call to the office as soon as possible after you have been informed of a positive test result.

Contact: [principal@greenhithe.school.nz](mailto:principal@greenhithe.school.nz) or phone the school 09 413 9838

### **What actions does the school take when there is a positive case?**

We follow a response plan based on guidance from the Ministry of Education.

This involves:

- Working with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education
- Seeking confirmation of the positive case, and when the infectious period was
- If this was on a school day, we then work through contact tracing
- We will advise classes that are close contacts, via email
- If this occurs during a school day, we will request that you come and collect your child as soon as you are able to. We will take the children who are affected to the top court on Isobel Rd and await you for a pick up. We will remain outside and socially distant from other people.
- The rest of school advised of the case

### **How do we work out who is a Close Contact?**

There is detailed guidance around this and a range of criteria. Without going into detail, because our students spend a long time in the same classroom, this then fits the criteria for being a Close Contact if they are unmasked.

## **Do I need to provide anything before my child is able to return to school?**

Yes please. For positive Covid cases or close contacts we would like to see the last negative test result please. Note: if your family chooses not to get the Covid test done, then the period of isolation will need to be extended.

## **If my child is a close contact, does the rest of our household also need to isolate?**

No, not for our region. We have received official direction from the Auckland Regional Health Board & Ministry of Education that this no longer applies to the Auckland region.

Please note: the Covid19 website still says that other household members of close contacts are casual contacts, and also need to isolate for 5 days, but this does not apply to the Waikato/Auckland areas.

## **A member of our household is a close contact. Can my child still attend school?**

Yes, as above. Your child is able to attend school.

## **We received the letter saying that my child is NOT a close contact. What do I need to do?**

- Most importantly, **your child is still able to attend school**
- You and your family should watch for symptoms, if any develop, get tested immediately, then, stay at home until you receive the result
- Please keep an eye out for school communications

## **My child has tested positive for Covid-19. What does this mean?**

This will mean that your child will need to isolate. All family members will be close contacts and also need to isolate. The Ministry of Health will provide more guidance.

## **A member of our household has tested positive. What does this mean?**

This will mean that your child will be a close contact and also needs to isolate. Ministry of Health will provide more guidance.

## **My child is feeling unwell (e.g. cough, headache, sore throat etc) Can I still send them to school?**

Because these are all symptoms of Covid, please do not send your child to school. While these may be the normal bugs/sniffles that occur, we encourage you to get your child tested.



### **Is it safe to send my child to school?**

Our processes involve working through a detailed contact tracing assessment. If your child is not a close contact, then school is still open for them and we encourage you to send them to school as much as you can. As you know, our students have missed a lot of teaching and learning over the past 2 years, and we really want to see them at school as much as possible. Our school health and safety plan for Red does contain a large number of protections.

### **What are you doing to keep my child safe?**

- All staff, volunteers, contractors on site are vaccinated
- We are ventilating all our rooms
- All staff and students in Year 4 and above are wearing masks, unless exempted
- Mask wearing in YO-3 is encouraged
- We have staggered break times and areas to assist with contact tracing and minimising contact between large groups of students.

### **My child is anxious or scared. What advice do you have?**

Our onsite team are working hard to make school fun, safe and a place of learning. We encourage you to focus on the things that they can do to help - mask-wearing, washing hands, getting a test (if required). Encourage them to come and enjoy school!

### **My child needs to isolate at home. What support will school provide around teaching and learning?**

A letter regarding our learning plan will be put out shortly.