

25/02/22

Dear parents and caregivers,  
Kia ora koutou

You may well have seen the headlines in the media about the rising number of cases being seen in schools. Please don't be alarmed by this. It is only natural, as cases in our community increase, they will appear in our school. We have really good systems in place to respond to this and to keep any spread of the virus – should it appear – to a minimum.

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.

Your job remains the same, too: please continue to keep a really close watch of your whānau for anyone with symptoms. **If your child shows symptoms, please do not send them to school. We will continue to send children home who show any of the symptoms at school or who are feeling unwell.**

#### **Confirmation of Current Isolation Times**

**Confirmed Positive Case** = Isolate for 10 days

**Household Close Contact** = Isolate from the day the household positive case receives a positive test result. Release on the same day as the case (after the case has completed 10 days isolation).

**Close Contact outside of the home** = Not required to self-isolate and should be attending school unless they have Covid-19 symptoms.

With Phase 3 of the Omicron response, the key change is that it is **only confirmed cases and their household contacts who need to self-isolate**. Everyone else, including those who may have had close contact with the case but aren't in the household, must continue to monitor really closely for any symptoms of COVID-19. 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.

We will continue to notify of new cases in the school at the moment. The Ministry of Education has informed us that I am unable to provide information on the class or even year group. However, where possible I can say whether it was middle, senior or junior school.

#### **Notifying School**

- **If your child is a positive case, please contact the school office (09 4139838 and [office@greenhithe.school.nz](mailto:office@greenhithe.school.nz)) immediately. Please provide the date your child was last at school and the date of the test.**
- **If your child is a household close contact, please email the office and the class teacher (so learning can be arranged). Please provide the date of exposure and the predicted return date.**

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..

If you have any concerns about sending your child to school, please do get in touch. We are here to help. We continue to try to make being at school fun, safe and as 'normal' as possible.

Ngā mihi  
Stephen Grady  
Principal  
Greenhithe School