

Friday 11th March, 2022. Kia orana, Tolafa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakalofa lahi ahu, Ni sa bula, Namaste

Tēnā koutou parents and caregivers

THANK YOU

Thank you once more for promptly sharing information about your child if they have been unwell, for responding to our phone calls so positively, and for supporting us to work safely with your child. Working together helps us to stay true to our core value – teamwork. We appreciate that.

COVID-19: Red Level: Phase 3 Changes

As you will have heard the government has announced changes to isolation requirements, beginning at midnight tonight.

This change has been made due to up-to-date public health advice that there is a decline in infectiousness of Omicron over time and in most cases, transmission occurs within seven days.

Evidence also shows that the risk of re-infection within the first three months after someone has had Omicron is very low.

From Saturday 12th March:

Positive COVID-19 Cases:

- Household contacts of a Person who tests Positive must isolate at home now for only 7 days.
 - The day the symptoms were obvious, OR the day of the positive result (whichever is first) is Day 0. The next day is Day 1.
 - If your child has no more symptoms, s/he can return to school on Day 8.

If Your Child is a Household Contact s/he:

- Needs to isolate for the same 7 days as the positive person in their household
- Needs to have a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) on **Day 3** and **Day 7** of the isolation period
- Can return to school on Day 8, providing s/he is symptom free and shows a negative test result.
- Children who are household contacts should continue to be monitored for symptoms up to Day 10.

- If symptoms develop at any time during isolation:
 - Take an additional RAT
 - If the test is negative and symptoms persist or worsen, test again 48 hours after that negative test
 - If symptoms go away, there is no need for a further test until the required Day 7 test. If this is negative, they can return to school on Day 8.
 - If the test is positive...See above!

- If a Child who is a household contact has **new symptoms** on the day of release:
 - they should be given an additional RAT and stay at home while unwell
 - if that test is negative and symptoms persist or worsen, test again after 48 hours. If symptoms go away, there is no need for a further test.

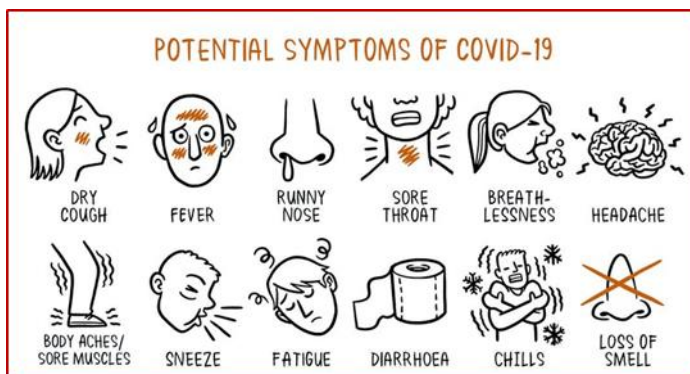
- When there are new cases of COVID-19 in your household:
 - If your child has finished their period of 7 days of isolation, and a new case is identified in the household within 7 days, they do not need to isolate again.

- If a new household case is identified 8 or more days after your child has returned to school, then s/he must start a new period of isolation at home for another 7 days.
- If your child has had Covid-19 and recovered:
 - S/he does not need to isolate again within **90** days of having the virus, if s/he becomes a household contact
 - S/he only needs to take a test **IF**, and when, symptoms of COVID-19 develop.

Advice for anyone who is unwell:

- Anyone who **is sick** should stay home until they are well.
- When a child has respiratory symptoms, they should stay at home and seek advice from their GP or Healthline. Staying home when unwell is key to controlling the spread of any virus in a school setting.
- Many children will have a long-lasting runny nose or cough after viral infections. If it is over 10 days since the onset of COVID symptoms and they are no longer feeling unwell, they are very unlikely to be infectious and can therefore return to school.
- However, if they are continuing to feel unwell or their symptoms are worsening after 10 days, they should not return to school and a review by their Doctor, or a call to Healthline, is recommended.

Common Symptoms of COVID-19 are (usually more than one is present):



What this means for Sir Keith Park School:

- All students who are in isolation due to being a household contact can return to school after they have completed Day 7 – they do not have to isolate for Days 8,9,10 – provided they are free of symptoms.
- SKP School will continue to notify appropriate families and staff if we are made aware that there is a Positive Result for a person attending the school, however no staff or students are required to isolate.
- The school will remain open as long as we are able to maintain a safe environment for all. There may be times when classes need to close – this would be due to a lack of staff.
- Staff will be moved around if necessary to allow the school to function, remain open, and to accommodate students' learning. This will be done with carefully considered caution.
- If a class has to close, we shall endeavour to provide appropriate learning from home to support the students.

- If the teacher is sick, there will only be generic activities made available via the website or by email. Syndicate Leaders will support this.

What You Need To Do:

- Inform the school if your child is absent **and give the reason why** please.
- Promptly inform us if your child or family member has a positive test result or becomes a household contact
- You should monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19 AND
- If they have symptoms, get tested as soon as possible
 - Keep them home until you receive the result of the test
 - Inform us of the outcome please as soon as possible

For more information check out the following websites:

- <https://covid19.govt.nz/isolation-and-care/what-happens-if-you-test-positive-for-covid-19/>
- <https://covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/about-covid-19/covid-19-symptoms/>

Kia kaha and faamalosī whānau!

Kathy Davidson

Principal / Tumūaki