



Friday 11 March 2022

Ngā mihi nui kia a koutou kātoa te whanau whanui o Te kura o Matangai Awhio,  
Greetings to friends and family of Auckland Point School,

We have had a great week of school where 72 students are back following isolation for Covid 19. As we progress through this omicron outbreak, attendance numbers will continue to fluctuate, and at this time I am really pleased to say that our case numbers have significantly decreased since the week beginning February 21<sup>st</sup>. We have three household cases currently. We will not notify whanau of every case but if there appears to be a significant cluster in any one class then we will notify the whanau of that class. We have been fortunate in that we had one large outbreak where the majority of our school was isolating at the same time, and this has helped us to manage the virus going forward.

It has been a tricky time for everyone, and I thank you for your ongoing communication with school as we adapt to the changes in health procedures while managing the staffing levels at school. From our tamariki's viewpoint, school continues to be the best place to be with all routines fully in place, curriculum learning as usual and lots of break time activities to keep everyone busy and engaged with school life. While we are doing our very best with hygiene protocols and to keep your children as safe as we can, it does not mean that there is not a chance of catching covid at school (just as there is also a chance of catching it anywhere else in the community), but we want our tamariki to attend school every day that they can.

I write to you today to share with you the change in isolation guidelines that begin from **11.59pm tonight**. This is the information that schools have received directly from the Ministry of Education:

#### **Cases of COVID-19**

- Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for seven days.
- Day 0 is the day symptoms began or the day the test was taken (whichever came first). Cases will isolate for a full seven days and are free to return to normal activities on Day 8, if they are not symptomatic.

#### **Household contacts**

- Household contacts are required to isolate for the same seven days as the case. They can return to their normal activities on the same day as the first case in their household, so long as all test results have been negative, and they are not symptomatic.
- Household contacts should continue to self-monitor for symptoms up to Day 10. Household contacts will be required to take a self-administered rapid antigen test (RAT) on Day 3 and Day 7 of the case's isolation period.

If symptoms develop at any time during isolation:

- the usual advice remains in place to undertake an additional RAT
- if the test is negative and symptoms persist or worsen, test again 48 hours after that negative test
- if symptoms resolve there is no need for a further test until the required Day 7 test. If this is negative, they can return to daily life on Day 8.

If a household contact has new symptoms on the day of release:

- they should undertake 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 resolve, there is no need for a further test.

If a household contact has finished their period of isolation they do not need to return to isolation if a new case is identified in their household. However, **this only applies for a period of seven days** following their leaving isolation.

Should a new household member be confirmed as a positive case, eight or more days after the household contact has left isolation, then they must start a new period of self-isolation for seven days.

#### **Advice for anyone who is unwell**

- When a child has respiratory symptoms, please keep them at home and seek advice from your GP or Healthline. Staying home is key to controlling the spread of **any** virus in a school setting.
- Some children may 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 GP review, or a call to Healthline, is recommended.

This is a lot of information and you can refer to it as and when you need to.

If you are unsure of anything please contact school and we are happy to help with any queries or concerns.

School continues to function as normal and we encourage you to send your children to school if they are well. Please call us and leave a message on the absence line if your child is unwell. If you have a case of covid in your home then we do need to know that.

Breakfast Club continues to run every day in the hall from 8.00am. If children arrive at school between 8.00 and 8.30am they need to go to the hall whether they wish to have breakfast or not. This is to keep children safe for this period of time, as teachers are working and preparing in their rooms and the playground is not supervised until 8.30am.

If you need to send your child to school before 8.30am, then please let us know this. We are happy to have children at school for this time, we just need to know numbers for safety and supervision purposes.

Please continue to drop and go at the start of the day.

Your tamariki will continue to be released at the end of the day to whanau starting at 2.45pm. Please wait behind the pink line and your tamariki will come to you. Mask wearing is strongly encouraged at this time.

Lastly, thank you for all you are doing to keep your whanau happy and functioning well. The majority of our tamariki are in school and are highly engaged in their learning and play. I know that as adults we are all protecting them from any uncertainty many are feeling at this time, so that they can continue to get on with the business of being kids.

Please let me know if you need any support or assistance at this time.

I know that times like this can place pressure on your resources and we're here to help.

Stay strong, stay safe and be kind. Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui,

*Sonya*

Sonya Hockley  
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