

Phase 3: Update for for parents and whānau

Kia ora koutou whanau and caregivers,

New Zealand's COVID-19 response continues amid much larger numbers of daily cases

You may well have seen the headlines in the media about the numbers 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. At this point however we do not have any positive cases in our Kura. We have good systems in place to respond to this and to keep any spread of the virus – should it appear – to a minimum.

You may have seen Dr Jin Russell in the media noting [research from New South Wales about their recent Omicron outbreak](#) showing that spread within the school setting is very low (less than 4% of cases at school infected someone else when at school). We have seen that in New Zealand too.

This is why we remain open at Red. 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 unwell, please stay at home and get advice about getting a COVID-19 test.

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 but may continue to come to school.

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.

If anyone in your family is confirmed as having COVID-19, you will be asked to **notify your close contacts yourself and** it is critical you get in touch with us at school as soon as you can if your child has tested positive for COVID-19.

Transmission of COVID-19 is still most likely to happen in your home – so please keep doing all those good things to keep your whānau safe. Wash your hands, get lots of fresh air, cover any coughs and sneezes, clean surfaces regularly, and seek advice if anyone is not feeling well. And please wear a mask when you are out and about. There is information online to help your family [prepare to isolate](#) if you need to.

Parents and whanau will be informed immediately if someone in your child/ren's hub or class has tested positive.

The most important advice we can give to keep your whānau safe is to **act as if you have COVID-19**. More than a third of people who have COVID-19 will not have any symptoms if they have had three doses of the vaccine. Please think about who you visit and what health measures you can put in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

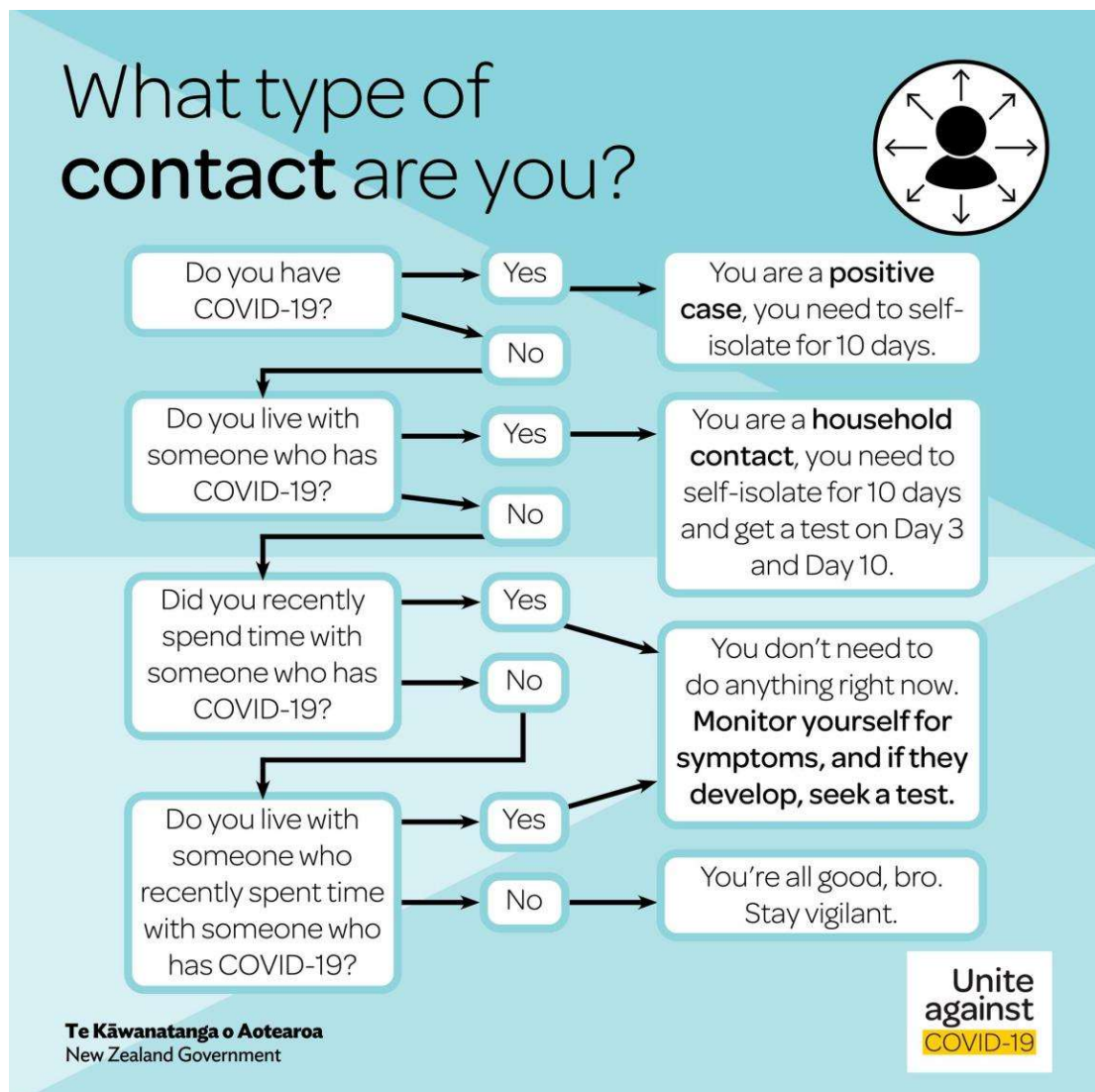
Finally, we know how hard the impacts on COVID-19 have been for many families in New Zealand. If you know of a family in your community who is struggling, please encourage them to reach out for support for example to access food, medicine, or access financial support: [Help is available – COVID-19 Health Hub](#).

If you have any concerns about sending your child to school, please do get in touch. We are here to help.

Aku mihi,

Rick Sayer
Principal

The below graphics may be of assistance.



Updated guide to self-isolation



You will need to self-isolate from others if you:

are positive for COVID-19

live with a positive case

You must isolate at home or in suitable alternative accommodation. If you test positive for COVID-19, a health professional will help you decide if managed isolation is suitable for you.

Isolate for 10 days from when you test positive

Isolate for 10 days

No further tests required unless directed to

Tests on Day 3 and Day 10

Financial support may be available - check our website to find out what you may be eligible for: [Covid19.govt.nz/financial-support/](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/financial-support/)

This information is accurate as at 24 February 2022. However, it may be updated if phases of the Omicron response change. For the most up to date information, please visit our website at [www.Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
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against
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