

25 February 2022

Dear Parents / Caregivers

I apologise for this coming straight after yesterday's newsletter but the move to Phase Three has necessitated some further communication.

I want to share something from one of the principals in our Kahui Ako. We had a google meet on Thursday morning to catch up and check how everything was going. A number of Porirua schools are heavily impacted or closed as a result of infection. Ourselves, Discovery and Pauatahanui are not affected at this stage, but we know our time will come. A principal shared that the parents who reported his first case were very upset that they felt they had brought Covid to the school and had caused classes to Isolate.

I must stress - and I know our community at large will understand - there is no guilt attached to coming down with this virus, nor any other sickness. People don't ask to get sick. We have been lucky to date and have been able to learn from schools that have been infected before us. It is exceedingly helpful that a wonderful, supportive and caring relationship - without any one up man ship - exists among the ten schools in our Kahui Ako.

As Omicron cases multiply exponentially, the Government has moved New Zealand into Phase Three. This changes the situation in regard to close contacts. **Close contacts are household contacts of confirmed cases.** The move to Phase Three will make it easier for us to keep our school open because teachers who are not unwell will be able to come to school.

Key Information

- 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 a teacher or student becomes infected with Covid-19, all families will be notified via email.
- If you recently spent time with a positive case or live with someone who has spent time with a positive case, you need to self-monitor and get a test if you become symptomatic, but you are not required to self-isolate.

Ngā mihi

John Wootton (Principal)