

# CENTENNIAL PARK SCHOOL

“Live Truly”

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24<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## **Re: Update on Omicron Awareness at Phase 3 and what to do**

Kia ora e te whaanau,

The numbers of cases being seen in schools throughout NZ are growing rapidly. This is something we may need to adjust to but making sure we remain safe. Please don't be alarmed by this but we need to make sure we are communicating to our whaanau what we are doing to support. It is only natural as cases in our community increase, they will appear in our kura eventually. We have systems in place to respond to this and to try and keep any spread of the virus – should it appear – to a minimum.

One reason schools remain open at Red is due to research from Dr Jin Russell who noted in his [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). The Ministry of Education is seeing a similar pattern in New Zealand too.

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.

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 have ordered a quantity for our staff so they can monitor and check their status if required.

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.

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.

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 tamariki to kura, please do get in touch either by phone 07 8787709, email [admin@centennialpark.school.nz](mailto:admin@centennialpark.school.nz), contact form on our [website](#) or on the Skool Loop app.

We are here to help our whaanau. This is a very challenging time, but a time where we can help support each other as best as we can.

Ngaa manaakitanga,

Kevin Ikin  
Tumuaki  
Te Kura Rautau