

Covid Preparedness Update

Over the coming weeks I will send out a number of updates sharing current information about COVID. I am keen to keep you updated with information as it develops. For some, this can be an anxious time as we wait for COVID to inevitably enter our school community. Clear and regular information can help ensure we are all working together.

Thank you to all the parents who are working with us to not come onto the school grounds.

Today, we will be moving to staggered pick-up times:

- Kākano classroom afternoon pick-up is between 2:45 and 2:55pm
- Koru classroom afternoon pick-up is between 2:55 and 3pm
- Rito and Harakeke classrooms (Years 3-6) pick-up is after 3pm

Kākano and Koru students will be brought to the front entrance to the school (on Alfred St) at the times noted; siblings from older classes can leave at these times as well.

If Your Child or Another Student is a Close Contact or Tests Positive for COVID:

1. Notify the Principal

Many of our parents have kept us informed when they have become a close contact, and we appreciate this very much. If your child returns a positive COVID test, contact the Principal in the first instance by:

Email: principal@blenheim.school.nz

School cell phone: **029 577 9442**

School office number: **03 577 5542** and ask to be directed to the Principal

2. How Will You Know If Your Child is a Close Contact through School?

Once a parent has notified us their child has COVID, the school will then work through a step-by-step guide of contact tracing and reporting. We are not able to disclose who the person is; privacy is paramount.

Contact tracing is the responsibility of the school; you will be contacted if your child is a close contact of someone with COVID. Parents/Caregivers of close contacts will receive an email and a txt message informing them of the required next steps.

3. How Will You Know if COVID is in Our School?

A newsletter and txt will be sent to the whole school community informing everyone that there is a case.

4. If Your Child Must Isolate

(S)he must stay home from school. The isolation period starts from the first full day a student stays home from school. Get a test done as soon as possible. At Day 5, the student in isolation is required to be re-tested. If the test returns a negative, the student can return to school on Day 8. However if, in the meantime, another student tests positive and your child has been a close contact, your child's isolation period begins again as Day 1.

There are complex rules around returning to school if more than one child in the classroom tests positive or is deemed a close contact within a set timeframe. Rest assured we will do our best to assist you with following isolation guidelines.

Special note: If your child stays home when (s)he is not a close contact, you risk extending their time out of school when close contact isolation is genuinely required. For this reason, we suggest you do not exclude your child from school unnecessarily.

Being prepared means that we can stay operating when we have COVID cases within the school. We are preparing learning material for tamariki that are required to isolate. Teachers will be providing teaching through Seesaw with the Reading Eggs and Mathletics programmes. If you require a device at home, please let us know so we can organise this for you.

Whaia te iti kahurangi me touho koe ma maunga teitei. *Place what is most precious to you at the top of the mountain; care for and nurture it to succeed.*

Our tamariki are most precious to us; please work with us to keep our school community safe and open.

Ngā mihi, Denyse