

HOW WILL WAINUIOMATA INTERMEDIATE HANDLE A CASE OR CASES OF COVID-19 DELTA OR OMICRON IN THE SCHOOL?

Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te kura,

A good question! How will Wainuiomata Intermediate School handle cases of Covid-19 if, or in reality, when, they occur in our school community. There are already a number of primary schools, in other parts of Aotearoa, which are experiencing this. Communication with our school community, once a case is confirmed, will be guided by Public Health and the Ministry of Education (MoE). Planning for the possibility of large numbers of absent staff and/or students is complex and will require flexibility and patience from us all.

SCHOOLS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF CASES OF COVID-19 IN TWO WAYS:

Please Note: We can't act on speculation, rumours or information from unofficial sources – even solid ones like Nui Natter!

Official notification through Public Health

If there is a confirmed case in our community, Public Health officials will undertake a case investigation, and work closely with the confirmed case to identify any close contacts, including any connection to our school.

As a result of the case investigation, Public Health will be able to provide the following information:

- Infectious period or information that the person was infectious when at school
- Any known activities onsite during that infectious period
- Isolation end date and testing advice for contacts

Then any close contacts will be notified with information on what they need to do next.

Notification from Staff, Parents or Caregivers

A staff member, parent or caregiver will notify the Principal, Craig Sharp (craigs@wis.school.nz or phone **04 939 1970 / 027 370 2567**) that they, or their child, are a confirmed case or close contact. **To keep the rest of our school safe this needs to happen as soon as possible.**

When this notification is received, but I have not yet been contacted by Public Health, I will contact the MoE, who will liaise with Public Health to work with WIS leadership on the next steps.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Once the notification is officially confirmed, I will liaise with the MoE and Public Health to work through the next steps. The MoE will assign one of their staff members as our 'single point of contact' (SPOC) to work with and ensure we are all supported throughout the entire process.

The roles and responsibilities throughout this process are summarised in the following table:

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITY
<p style="text-align: center;">Kaihautu/Principal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm with Ministry of Education (MOE) our Single Point of Contact (SPOC) if a student or staff member is positive case • Discuss public health risk and contact categorisation with MoE Single Point of Contact and Public Health • Complete a full assessment of contacts • Provide the list of contacts to National Investigation and Tracing Centre • Send communication to Close Contacts and Casual Contacts in the school community <p>HOW WILL I COMMUNICATE WITH YOU?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close contacts of a confirmed case will receive direct communication from WIS leadership via phone call or email • Our school community will be informed via email, and on our WIS Facebook Page
<p style="text-align: center;">MoE - Single Point of Contact (SPOC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request information on the case from a Public Health unit • Discuss the health risk and contact categorisation with Kaihautu/Principal and Public Health • Support Kaihautu/Principal to complete a full assessment of contacts
<p style="text-align: center;">Public Health Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the case • Confirm whether the positive case was infectious at school • Notify MoE Single Point of Contact of the case at school • Discuss public health risk and contact categorisation • Provide the infectious period, self-isolation end date and testing dates
<p style="text-align: center;">National Investigation and Tracing Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upload Close Contacts • Provide advice to Contacts

IDENTIFYING CLOSE CONTACTS

Our school has good processes in place for making the contact tracing process as easy as possible. **This is why we ask everyone to scan our QR code** when coming onto the school site and to sign in at the front office.

As an interim measure to mitigate risk:

- The confirmed case and their household should already be self-isolating.

- As a precaution, those who have been in the same classroom as the confirmed case for the previous 48 hours will be asked to stay away for **10 DAYS**, or until further public health advice has been received.
- They need to be tested immediately and again on days 5 and 8. Get them an **EXTRA TEST** if they develop COVID-19 symptoms at any time during isolation.
- Find your nearest testing centre at www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19 or call Healthline on **0800 358 5453**
- It's **FREE**
- Tell them your child is a **CLOSE CONTACT**
- Ensure any unvaccinated household members stay home until the contact receives a negative Day 5 test result
- Home learning packs will be available
- We will carry out a thorough clean of the classroom prior to the other students, children and staff returning onsite.

WHAT OTHER PLANNING IS IN PROCESS?

We actually can't predict with any certainty, which scenarios will eventuate and when. The operation of the school will be dependent on how many staff are available to keep programmes running on site safely at any time. What we do know is that we will most likely be operating in the following stages at some point over this year.

We have Stages or Phases that will most likely play out.

Onsite Learning: What we have now. School going ahead with precautions around mask wearing, sanitising and distance in place. This will continue even with some confirmed cases.

Hybrid Learning: A sizeable proportion of the school population – Students and Teachers, isolating at home. A mixture of home based and school based learning. Classes would be covered on-site by Management and Tech staff.

Home Based Learning: Too many people away to offer Hybrid Learning. On-site for students of essential workers only, everyone else doing Home-Based Learning.

School Closure: A last resort in conjunction with the MoE. Just not enough staff to cope with even on-line learning. Independent learning would be available. We would still try to cater for students of essential workers if possible.

In closing, thank you for taking the time to read all of this. Please understand this is today's information and it could change. We are in constant touch with the Ministries of Health and Education.

Managing a situation like this has its challenges and it would be impossible to do without everyone's support. I have been stunned with the amazing community response so far to the measures we have in place to ensure everyone is happy, safe and welcome at WIS.

He waka eke noa - We are all in this together, and when the chips are down that is when our community pulls together and shines.

Stay safe whanau,

Craig Sharp