

COVID CASE MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS

As we navigate the current Covid-19 Omicron outbreak, there may be cases that start to arise in our NPACS School community. Communication with our school community, once a case is confirmed, will be guided by Public Health and the Ministry of Education. Planning for the possibility of absent staff and/or students is complex and will require flexibility and patience from everyone involved in and around our school. The information on this page is a step by step guide of what to do for your child and who to notify should cases emerge.

NPACS Schools response to the Omicron outbreak will happen in four stages depending on case numbers at school and in the community.

STAGE 1

School is open with all students learning on-site.

STAGE 2

School is open with some students on-site and some students learning from home.

STAGE 3

School is open but the school site is closed. Distance learning programmes are in place.

STAGE 4

School is closed with no learning programmes available due to staff illness.

Your child tests positive for Covid-19

Contact the school as soon as possible. Try to compile a list of possible close contacts

Self isolate for 10 days. test on day 5 and then again on day 8

Your child can return to school on day 11, if a negative day 8 PCR test is confirmed and they are asymptomatic

A household whānau member tests positive for Covid-19

Contact the school as soon as possible. Your child is a close contact

Isolate for 10 days, monitor for symptoms, and get a PCR test on day 3 and day 8

Your child can return to school on day 11, if a negative day 8 PCR test is confirmed and they are asymptomatic

Your child is a close contact of a positive case not in their house

Contact the school as soon as possible, if school did not notify you of the close contact

Isolate for 7 days, monitor for symptoms, and get a PCR test on day 5

Your child can return to school on day 8, if a negative day 5 PCR test is confirmed and they are asymptomatic

A household whānau member is a close contact of a positive case

Inform the school as soon as possible

Your child can continue to attend school

Monitor your child for any symptoms and get tested if unwell. You child can return to school after a negative test.

If your child is a casual (secondary) contact, they are able to attend school, but please watch for any symptoms.

PHASE 2 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q Who do we advise if our child tests positive for Covid-19?

A Please contact the Principal at school on **753 5495** or cellphone **027 555 1863** or email **principal@npacs.school.nz** as soon as possible.

Q My child is a close contact. What does this mean?

A This means your child has had close contact with a positive case.

Your child must self-isolate for seven days from the date they had contact with the case.

Testing must happen on Day Five.

Your child can stop isolating and return to school after a negative Day 5 test and once seven days have passed.

Q A member of our household is a close contact. How does this affect my child?

A Your child is classed as a casual (secondary) contact, so they can attend school as they have had no direct contact with the positive case.

If the household member tests positive, then your child becomes a close contact and must self-isolate.

Q My child has tested positive for Covid-19. What does this mean?

A Your child will need to self isolate and your whānau members will be designated as close contacts.

This involves:

- Your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days
- **If at school**, we will need to determine close contacts and notify wider whānau
- **If at home**, your whānau will be close contacts and also need to self-isolate as per the guidelines
- Support for testing and care will be provided by Regional Public Health

Q What will the school do if there is a positive case?

A We follow a response plan that is guided by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

This involves:

- Seeking confirmation of the positive case and time frames around the infectious period
- If this is a school day, we will establish contact tracing
- We will advise classes that are close contacts via email and a phone call
- **If this occurs during the day, whānau will be asked to collect their child as soon as possible**
- The rest of the school will be advised of the case and will be classed as casual contacts

Q If my child is a close contact, does the rest of our household need to self-isolate?

A Any household member would be classed as a casual (secondary) contact as they have had no direct contact with the case so they **do not have to self-isolate**.
Monitor for symptoms and get tested if symptomatic.

Q My child is a casual contact at school. What does this mean?

A Your child was at school when there was a positive case. They have had no interaction with the case concerned. **Your child is able to attend school.**

We do ask that:

- Whānau watch for any symptoms such as a sore throat, runny nose, cough, fever
- Get tested if these symptoms develop
- Stay at home until you receive a result. If negative, your child can return to school once well
- If positive, follow isolation guidelines
- Please keep a close eye out on all school communications

Q With everything going on, my child is feeling anxious. What can I do?

A At NPACS School, we are doing what we can to ensure that school is a safe, fun place to be. Teachers are being careful to focus on positive solutions to encourage students to look after themselves, one another and show kindness.
[KidsHealth.org.nz](https://www.kidshealth.org.nz) has some good resources that might help

Q My child is required to self-isolate. What school-work will be available?

A Learning will be available in a range of offline and online learning activities for whānau to access.
Please contact the school office

If a student is unwell, there is no expectation for them to do any work.

Q How do we work out who is a close contact or a casual contact at school?

A -
There are detailed criteria for determining this. Some of the considerations are:

- location
- time spent in that location
- others present in the location
- movements of the case concerned
- interactions between the case and other people

As we work through this current Covid situation, please keep us informed about any developments and please keep your child home if they are unwell. **Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui.**