

6 March 2022



Kia ora te whānau

Over the weekend, we have had a small increase to positive cases and a number of household contacts.

At the moment, it is still under 5 positive cases but with household numbers rising we can expect that positive numbers will also rise.

From now, we will only be updating you when we start to see a significant amount of positive cases at school.

Now that we are in Phase 3 of the Red settings, I'd like to reassure you that we have really good systems in place to respond and keep any spread of the virus to a minimum.

You may have seen Dr Jin Russell in the media noting [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). We have seen that in New Zealand too.

This is why we remain open at Red. It's great for a child's wellbeing and learning to be at school with their friends and school staff. We will review this if we are unable to provide staff to cover all of the classes.

You will notice that we will have a number of staff away (not all COVID related) so there will be a bit of juggling to ensure we can keep school as steady and safe as possible.

Your job remains the same:

**Please make sure that you contact Luana Carroll straightaway on [principal@houghton.school.nz](mailto:principal@houghton.school.nz) if you or someone in your household receives a positive test.**

- 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.
- Follow good hygiene practices - sanitise, wash hands regularly, cough and sneeze into the elbow.
- Scan in using the COVID QR code or via the physical register. Turn on Bluetooth tracing in the app dashboard.
- **Wear masks (including all students from Year 4 and up) We ask that they remember to bring their own from home**
- Maintain a physical distance
- No non-essential visitors onsite at Red. If you need to come onsite, masks, scanning & distancing rules apply.

*If you have any concerns about sending your child to school, please do get in touch. We are here to help.*



### ***Additional info and helpful links***

[Self isolation advice](#)

[COVID symptoms](#)

[Extra support if you are self-isolating or have COVID](#)

[Book your Vaccine](#)

[Prepare to isolateHelp is available – COVID-19 Health Hub](#)

It is important at this time that we remember to be kind and show compassion for those affected by COVID-19 and remember to check on those in our community.

- **Be a good neighbour** - check in with your neighbours, especially elderly and those that live alone. Make sure they have what they need and let them know they have people that care.
- **Support local businesses** - order takeaways or buy gift cards for later use.
- **Be generous** - only take what you need when it comes to groceries and supplies. Or if you can, buy extra and deliver to support agencies

- **Help people** - there will be people all over our communities that will be struggling. If you know them, think of what help could look like and reach out.
- **Community Support** - we know that many want to help out and support those within our school community that may need help. We are happy to be the collectors and distributors of this. We ask if you need help to let us know and then we can put this out to the community to support those in need.
- **School** is able to connect whānau who are struggling with other government agencies so please email Luana if you need any support accessing this or you can go through [Work and Income](#).

Ngā manaakitanga

Luana Carroll  
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