

St Joseph's Catholic School



“Excellent Education befitting our Catholic Character”

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To our St Joseph's School Whānau,

You'll be aware that New Zealand moved into Phase 3 of our response to Omicron at 11:59 pm Thursday 24 February (last night). Although we are in Phase 3, **we are still at Red** under the COVID-19 Protection Framework. Relaxing the rules around close contacts means we now have to be extra careful.

As such, the same mitigation measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 remain in place: not staying inside for more than 2 hours (we are less), wearing masks, ventilation. and having lots of opportunities to be outside during the day. Vigilance about symptoms and staying away if unwell continue to be a priority. You now are responsible to notify the school and the Ministry of Health if you have a positive case in your home.

In Phase 3, only household contacts of confirmed cases are required to self-isolate. The isolation period will be 10 days (coming back on Day 11). **All other contacts of COVID-positive people are not required to isolate**, but they will need to monitor for symptoms. Parents and caregivers should continue to notify our school if they or their child was positive while at school.

Attending school has so many benefits for the learning and wellbeing of our children. We encourage you to continue to send your child/ren to school. We have very good systems in place to keep everyone as safe as possible. It is important that everyone follows the rules so that our staff and students are as safe as possible.

People who are currently self-isolating as close contacts and **are not household contacts** can stop isolating and return to school from today Friday 25 February if they are asymptomatic. They are no longer required to produce a negative test result. This means your children from Aroha JW can come back to school on Monday if your child is well.

We hope all of our school community keeps well.

Please feel free to contact me you have any concerns or need any support: principal@stjosephs.co.nz

Stay safe and keep well,

Ursula Hall
Principal