



4 March 2022

Kia ora e te whanau o Rodney College

In the last two weeks we have seen Omicron spreading through our communities rapidly and infection rates are leaping ahead, just as health authorities predicted. Rodney College has had some confirmed cases amongst both staff and students, and whilst numbers testing positive have been quite low in comparison to other schools i.e. one teacher and about 20 students currently, we are expecting this to rise in the coming weeks as the current outbreak peaks.

For this reason, we have the following **TWO STEP PLAN** ready to go, **should** we need it.

Currently we are in **STEP 1**:

STEP 1: Status quo- Students should be attending school. Rodney College remains open for all students at all year levels. Work is provided for students sick or isolating via the Google Classroom platform. Students who are not sick or isolating (and have no symptoms) should attend school.

STEP 2: Rostering home of Senior Students only (Year 11-13).

At **Step 2** we would not have enough staff available to cover all classes, so in order to create more teacher capacity, individual year groups would be rostered home. Year groups rostered home would not have any on-line classes, they, simply catch-up on work already set. The school bus service will run as normal.

This is a head's up for you at this stage, should we need to move to Step 2. We will inform you of the details if this needs to happen.

Living with Covid19

Finally, while we recognise the anxiety around infection, especially as Omicron is currently on the increase, the advice from the Ministry of Health is that schools remain safe places for staff and students to attend. Public health teams on the ground have seen that even though cases pop up in schools, there has been very little onward spread through the school because of the protective measures we have in place. For this reason, we advise that if your child is well, they should be attending school.

We hope that the information sheet that follows will clarify how you should communicate with the school in these challenging times.

Nga mihi

Irene Symes
Principal / Tumuaki