

Applicable to all schools around NZ, a notified positive case of COVID-19 on site is communicated directly from the Ministry of Health to the school. That school is then directed on guidance and protocols from MoH moving forward. See below:

What to do if there is a case of COVID-19 at any school or kura

As noted recently by Dr Caroline McElroy, Director of Public Health:

Our experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 shows that it does not affect children and teens in the same way it does adults. Children and teens don't become as unwell if they do get infected, and they don't tend to pass the virus on so much as adults when in a classroom setting.

Compared to other places, schools and early learning services are not environments where we have seen significant spread of COVID-19. Household members and work colleagues who are in close contact with people with COVID-19, are the most common sources of transmission.

Inevitably, however, when there are cases in the community, they will also appear in schools and early learning services.

Notification through public health

When there is a confirmed case in the 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 a school or early learning service.

Health officials will then contact either the regional Director of Education or the school directly to provide direction on contact tracing and other relevant information.

Health officials will support with communications to the school community based on this public health advice.

As a result of the case investigation, public health may be able to provide the following information:

- infectious period **or** information that the person was not infectious when at school
- any known activities onsite during that infectious period
- isolation end date and testing advice for contacts

In addition to the case investigation by Health, a school or early learning service will be able to identify those in who may also be considered contacts, through:

- timetables (which staff were onsite with which classes, groups, bubbles)
- attendance registers
- sports, cultural and other extra-curricular group lists
- visitor registers

Again, MoH will support all schools to work their way through this process based on public health advice.