



# GREEN BAY SCHOOL

RespectWhakaute PositivityMatika InitiativeAuahatia

25 February 2022

Kia ora koutou Green Bay School

## **COVID-19 Phase 3 – Red Framework**

New Zealand's COVID-19 response continues amid much larger numbers of daily cases.

You'll be aware the Government announced yesterday that New Zealand will move into Phase 3 of our response to Omicron at 11:59pm Thursday 24 February. This decision was made based on public health advice – the high vaccination rate across the country will do its job in protecting us from transmission during the next surge of cases.

In Phase 3, only household contacts of confirmed cases are required to self-isolate. The isolation period will be 10 days. All other contacts of COVID-positive people are not required to isolate, but they will need to monitor for symptoms. Rapid antigen tests will become the primary testing method which will give you a result within 15-20 minutes.

You may well have seen the headlines in the media about the numbers of cases being seen in schools. Please don't be alarmed by this. It is only natural as cases in our community increase, they will appear in our school. We have really good systems in place to respond to this and to keep any spread of the virus to a minimum. This is why we remain open at Red. It's important for the wellbeing and the learning of our students to be at school with their friends and school staff, and the health and safety measures in place within all classrooms will keep everyone as safe as possible. Whilst we are still in the Red framework, our GBS **Parent protocols** will remain in place at school until further notice.

Transmission of COVID-19 is still most likely to happen in your home though – so please keep doing all those good things to keep your whānau safe. Wash your hands, get lots of fresh air, cover any coughs and sneezes, clean surfaces regularly, and seek advice if anyone is not feeling well. Also please wear a face mask when you are out and about. There is information online to help your family **prepare to isolate** if you need to.

A suggestion for keeping your whānau safe is to act as if you have COVID-19. More than a third of people who have COVID-19 will not have any symptoms if they have had three doses of the vaccine. Please think about who you visit and what health measures you can put in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Finally, we know how hard the impacts on COVID-19 have been for many families in New Zealand. If you know of a family who is struggling, please encourage them to reach out for support, for example to access food, medicine, or access financial support: **Help is available – COVID-19 Health Hub**.

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

Aku mihi

Anand Muthoo  
**Principal**  
**Green Bay School**