

25 February 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers/Whānau

With Phase 3 of the Omicron response the rules around categorization of close contacts have changed. Going forward, close contacts are limited only to those within the same household as a confirmed positive case. If anyone in your family is confirmed as having COVID-19, you are considered a Household Contact and will need to isolate for 10 days. You will be asked to notify your close contacts yourself and, if this impacts your child, please communicate this with the school's attendance line (ph. 07 576 2316 and press 1) or email: absence@otc.school.nz .

Some of our students and whānau that have been isolating due to previous close contacts may not need to isolate any longer, assuming they feel well and have not developed any COVID-19 symptoms.

Please be aware that the threat of covid infection has NOT changed. This is still a serious concern to the health of our students, staff and community. So, while there will be less rules around how and when you come to school, we would encourage anyone isolating that knows of high-risk transmission contacts, to continue to isolate for the previously recommended period.

Those that are not exhibiting symptoms and feel well, are welcome to return to school, but the recommendation is to continue to self-monitor. It is still essential that any students who are feeling unwell remain at home.

While classifications of casual and close contacts may seem to be relaxed, the risk of infection and illness remains high, and could potentially continue to rise.

For further information on Phase 3 go to -
<https://covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/about-covid-19/our-response-to-omicron/>

Thank you to all the parents, caregivers and whānau who have been so understanding and supportive through this challenging period.

Yours sincerely



Russell Gordon
Principal