



COVID-19 FAQ

Who do I advise if my student tests positive for COVID-19?

Please contact our Acting Principal, Pere Durie, as soon as possible after you have been informed of a positive test result. You can email him at: principal@papamoacollege.school.nz For all other COVID related queries, please contact enquires@papamoacollege.school.nz

The school will update the community periodically through our Facebook page about additional cases and COVID related matters. Official communication will be phone, text and email.

What does the school do when there is a positive case?

We follow a response plan based on guidance from the Ministry of Education. This involves:

- Confirmation of a positive test result, test date and infectious period.
- If your child returns a positive test result, they will be required to isolate and follow Ministry of Health guidance.
- We will contact trace and confirm students that are close contacts.
- If your student is a close contact, you will be notified (not the whole school) via text message and/or email.
- Your child must follow the testing and isolation requirements outlined.

How do we work out who is a Close Contact?

There is detailed guidance around this and a range of criteria provided by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. In summary a person becomes a close contact if:

- They have spent time inside within a 1.5 metre proximity to a positive case without wearing a mask.
- They have been in direct contact (laughing, touching, physical contact) outside with a positive case

My child is a Close Contact. What does this mean?

This means your student has had contact (see above) with a positive case at our school.

- They will need to isolate for 7 days and be tested on day number 5.
- Please note, Day 0 is the day they were in contact with a positive case at school. Because of the time lag between the confirmed case and/or test results, this may mean that your student only needs to remain home for a smaller number of days.
- Up until now the District Health Board has advised in regard to infectious days and isolation timeframes. Now we are at phase 2, this information will now come in the first instance from us. We will advise you in regard to testing and isolation dates.

Do I need to provide anything before my child is able to return to school?

As long as your student is **not symptomatic** and **has received a negative test result** they can return to school, after the 7 days has passed. This only applies for close contacts as positive cases will be managed by the Ministry of Health.

If my child is a close contact, does that mean the rest of our household also needs to isolate?

If you live with a Close Contact, you do not need to self-isolate. You are considered a Casual Contact. You can leave your home, including to go to work or school and to shop. This applies to both fully vaccinated and not fully vaccinated people.

- Take common-sense precautions to avoid contact with the Close Contact in your house.
- Monitor yourself and all Casual Contacts for symptoms.
- If the Close Contact tests positive, you are now also a Close Contact and should follow the guidance for Close Contacts.
- This includes testing and monitoring for symptoms.

A member of our household is a close contact. Can my child still attend school?

- Yes, as above. Your child is able to attend school.

My child has tested positive for COVID-19. What does this mean?

This will mean that your child will need to be isolated. All household members will be close contacts and also need to be isolated. The Ministry of Health will provide more guidance. [Advice for people with COVID-19](#)

A member of our household has tested positive. What does this mean?

This will mean that your student will be a close contact and also needs to isolate. The Ministry of Health will provide more guidance. [Information for Close Contacts](#). Please report this absence as you normally would and also inform your student's Whānau Teacher that they are isolating due to a positive test in your household.

Is it safe to send my child to school?

As a school we aim to provide a safe environment by adhering to all public health recommendations which includes mask mandates, outside breaks, ventilation and safe hygiene practices. Where your student is not a positive case or close contact, then school is still open for them and we expect you to send them to school.

My child needs to isolate at home. What support will school provide around teaching and learning?

Students can access Google Classroom daily to engage with and progress their learning. Doing this ensures they are familiar with what is being taught and will help them on their return to school. Students should also be checking their emails daily.

If you or your student has any questions or concerns about their learning, please contact either your students Whānau Teacher.

AS ALWAYS, IF YOUR STUDENT IS UNWELL, KEEP THEM HOME AND GET A TEST.