

## ALL MEMBERS OF THE RODNEY COLLEGE WHANAU

### COVID-19 UPDATE #2

#### 'We are all in this together'

New Zealand is currently at **Level 2** of the national Covid 19 plan: **Reduce: Disease is contained but risks of community transmission growing** (official govt website covid19.govt.nz ) This means Rodney College, is required to stay open. At Level 2 we will only close in the event of a 'close contact' or actual case of Covid 19 has been identified within the school community. At this stage (thankfully) we have neither.

#### What does this mean for you?

##### **ATTENDANCE: Your child should NOT come to school if:**

1. They have had **direct contact** with someone diagnosed as having COVID19 or actually diagnosed as having contracted COVID19. **Inform the Health Authorities and school immediately.**
2. They have returned from **overseas recently**

Anyone who has returned to New Zealand in the last 14 days **must self isolate**. Here is the link for what self isolation looks like:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-self-isolation>

For COVID-19 health advice and information, contact the Healthline team (for free) on 0800 358 5453 or 09 358 5453 for international SIMS.

If there is someone in the home who has recently returned to New Zealand from overseas and therefore has to self- isolate, the student who is living in that household can **either**:

- Continue coming to school **as long as they follow the self isolation guidelines** outlined above .e.g, not sharing rooms, food, keeping distance)
- OR**
- Be in self isolation with their family – even if they are doing so, they should follow the guidelines above.
3. If your son or daughter is **unwell**, or has a medical condition defined as **High Risk**, they **SHOULD NOT** attend school. If a student attends when they are unwell, we will send them home.

In all the above cases, the college will endeavor to provide your child with school work to do at home.

Secondly, we would like to assure you that we are doing everything we can to minimize the risk to staff, students and visitors to the college, of contracting and /or spreading Covid19.

**This includes:**

- Promoting the WHO/Ministry of Health guidelines and implementing all recommendations.
- Encouraging **EVERYONE** attending the college to adhere to healthy and hygienic practices at all times. (see below)
- Reducing risk of the spread of infection by providing antiseptic sprays/ micro fibre clothes in all learning and meeting spaces and ensuring that surfaces, laptops, eftpos machines/door handles etc. are cleaned regularly.
- Ensuring that our toilets have ample supply of soap and hand towels
- Practising self-distancing by separating desks, meeting in small groups and removing all activities that could increase the risk of infection transmission.

**MODEL BASIC HYGIENE and HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PRACTICES:**

- Wash hands **multiple times** a day for at least 20 seconds each time, and **dry hands** thoroughly.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue when you sneeze or cough, and throw away the tissue immediately; or sneeze or cough into the bend of your elbow.
- Do not share food or drinks.
- If you are unwell, stay at home.
- Practice giving fist or elbow bumps instead of handshakes/high fives. Fewer germs are spread this way.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Eat a balanced diet, get enough sleep, and exercise regularly to develop a strong immune system for fighting off illness.
- Talk about what you and your family can do to help prevent infection.

Finally, the likelihood that community transmission is occurring will increase. If and when we move into **Level 3**: it is possible that whole regions will be identified as needing to increase their responses. At this level, Rodney College **MAY** be instructed to close. For this reason, we are preparing for this eventuality and planning to deliver online learning. You as parents/caregivers also need to prepare for this eventuality.

These are challenging times indeed. Please don't hesitate to ring us if you have any queries or concerns. Kia kaha!

Irene Symes

Principal