



26 August 2021

Dear Parent, Caregiver, Staff Member,

COVID-19 at Waimahia Intermediate School

A Waimahia Intermediate School student has been confirmed as having COVID-19. **All staff and students of the school are considered close contacts.**

The student was at school between 9am and 3pm on Monday 16 August.

What does 'close contact' mean?

Close contacts may have been near the person with COVID-19 for enough time to put them at greater risk of catching the illness.

What should close contacts do now?

- **You must self-isolate**
 - Aside from visiting a testing facility, you will need to stay at home and self-isolate **until the end of Monday 30 August**, in case you are becoming ill with COVID-19. Information about how to self-isolate is available [here](#).
 - It is important to watch for symptoms of COVID-19 (see below) while in self-isolation.
 - The people you live with will need to stay at home until you return a negative test. This means the **entire household can't go out for any reason, including to get a COVID-19 vaccination**. Household members **do not** need to get a test unless they develop symptoms or are asked to by public Health.

- **Get a test.**

You will need to get tested:

- **Immediately**

The test is free. Please give the following code to the testing staff when you visit: **SURV- TM18SC18**

Find your nearest testing centre [here](#).

- **Watch for symptoms**

Keep watching for the symptoms. If you get symptoms, you must have another test immediately – even if your first test result is negative.

The symptoms of COVID-19 can include one or more of the following:

- **sneezing and runny nose**
- **a new or worsening cough**

- sore throat
- a fever of at least 38°C
- shortness of breath
- temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste
- diarrhoea
- headache
- muscle pain or body aches
- nausea and vomiting.

What if I am vaccinated?

Household members of close contacts who are vaccinated must still stay in self-isolation until the close contact has returned a negative test. This is because no vaccine is 100 per cent effective. It is still possible to get ill, or pass the virus to others, if you are developing COVID-19.

Finally, if you know the identity of the person with COVID-19, please do not disclose their names or details to anyone else, including sharing information on social media. This can lead to on-line bullying and abuse.

For more information: call Healthline: 0800 358 5453 (a free, 24/7 service with interpreters available). You can also visit www.arphs.health.nz or www.covid19.govt.nz.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Medical Officer of Health
Auckland Regional Public Health Service