



## Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Ratonga Hauora-ā-Iwi o Tāmaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Waitemata and Counties Manukau

22 August 2021

Dear Parent, Caregiver, Staff Member,

### COVID-19 at Western Springs College

A Western Springs College student has been confirmed as having COVID-19.

From our investigations, we have identified that most staff and students who were at the school at the same time as the case are casual contacts. A smaller number of staff and students have been identified as close contacts.

- **You have been identified as a casual contact**

#### What does 'casual contact' mean?

Casual Contacts are people who have been in the same place at the same time as someone infectious with COVID-19 but may not have been near the infectious person. Casual Contacts are at lower risk of getting sick with COVID-19.

#### What should you do now?

1. Watch for the symptoms of COVID-19 (see below) until **Tuesday 31 August**. If you experience symptoms:
  - a. Call Healthline (0800 358 5453 – a free, 24/7 service with interpreters available) for advice.
  - b. **Get tested.**
  - c. Tell the testing staff that you are a **casual contact** and give them the following code: **TM18SC10**.
2. Continue to follow the [national alert level guidelines](#). New Zealand is currently at Level 4.

#### Symptoms

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?

Even if you are vaccinated, you must stay in self-isolation for 14 days. This is because no vaccine is 100 per cent effective. You may still 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.

We will update you if there are any changes to the above advice.

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

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Medical Officer of Health

**Auckland Regional Public Health Service**