



16 February 2022

Dear Northcote Intermediate School Community

I'm writing to you today to let you know that there have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our school community. At this stage, we do not have anyone who has been at school who is considered to be a close contact. Should this change, we will notify relevant parents directly.

The health and wellbeing of our children, staff and community is a top priority and we are doing all we can to reduce the risk of transmission at NIS (including the wearing of face masks, ventilation, reducing cross-class contact) and strengthen our contact tracing ability. Thank you for your support on this.

Please – if your child is a confirmed case, or if you have legitimate concerns about a possible case, advise the school as soon as possible through phone on 09 481 1400 or by email on principal@ni.school.nz. The sooner we know, the sooner we can begin contact tracing and notifying people who need to know.

I realise that COVID coming into our school community can be unsettling for a range of reasons, particularly as we get the first few cases. Please treat each other with kindness and empathy during this time. It is important that we respect the privacy of individuals and their situation. Avoid adding pressure to individuals in an already difficult situation, considering the impact that social media and rumours can have on others before posting or sharing information. Be aware, however, that we will only act once the case has been confirmed by the Ministry of Health.

What you need to do:

You and your whaanau should watch for symptoms and your child should stay away from school if they are unwell. If symptoms develop, get tested

Stay at home until you receive the result of this test

Ensure your contact details are up to date with the school – please contact us directly on admin@ni.school.nz should you need to update these. You can check your details on the School App

Symptoms of COVID-19:

- A new or worsening cough
- Sneezing and runny nose
- A fever
- Temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath

Less common symptoms include diarrhoea, headache, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, malaise, chest pain, abdominal pain, joint pain, or confusion/irritability.

Please contact principal@ni.school.nz if you have any further questions.

You can be assured that we have systems and processes in place to manage this, and any subsequent cases. For now, as community, let's continue to work together and stay safe.

Ngaa mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PM', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Phil Muir

Proud Principal, Northcote Intermediate School