



Whānau Pānui – 2 March 2022

Covid-19 Update

This pānui / notice focuses on an update to Covid-19 in our community.

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Cases

As of 2 March 2022, we have four confirmed cases at our school. Two new this week.

Three students (One Year 10, Two Year 13) and one teacher. Two students were last in school, Tuesday last week and one was last at school on Friday.

The teacher was first identified as a household contact and then several days later tested positive. They were last in school on Friday last week.

We have several students who are self-isolating as they are a household close contact and/or awaiting test results. Thanks for advising us and keeping us advised of the result and the expected date of return to school.

Here are two useful guides to self-isolation and what sort of contact you may be.

What type of contact are you?

- Do you have COVID-19?
 - Yes: You are a **positive case**, you need to self-isolate for 10 days.
 - No: Do you live with someone who has COVID-19?
 - Yes: You are a **household contact**, you need to self-isolate for 10 days and get a test on Day 3 and Day 10.
 - No: Did you recently spend time with someone who has COVID-19?
 - Yes: You don't need to do anything right now. Monitor yourself for symptoms, and if they develop, seek a test.
 - No: Do you live with someone who recently spent time with someone who has COVID-19?
 - Yes: You don't need to do anything right now. Monitor yourself for symptoms, and if they develop, seek a test.
 - No: You're all good, bro.

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Updated guide to self-isolation

You will need to self-isolate from others if you:

are positive for COVID-19	live with a positive case
You must isolate at home or in suitable alternative accommodation. If you test positive for COVID-19, a health professional will help you decide if managed isolation is suitable for you.	
Isolate for 10 days from when you test positive	Isolate for 10 days
No further tests required unless directed to	Tests on Day 3 and Day 10
Financial support may be available - check our website to find out what you may be eligible for: Covid19.govt.nz/financial-support/	

This information is accurate as at 24 February 2022. However, it may be updated if phases of the Omicron response change. For the most up to date information, please visit our website at www.covid19.govt.nz

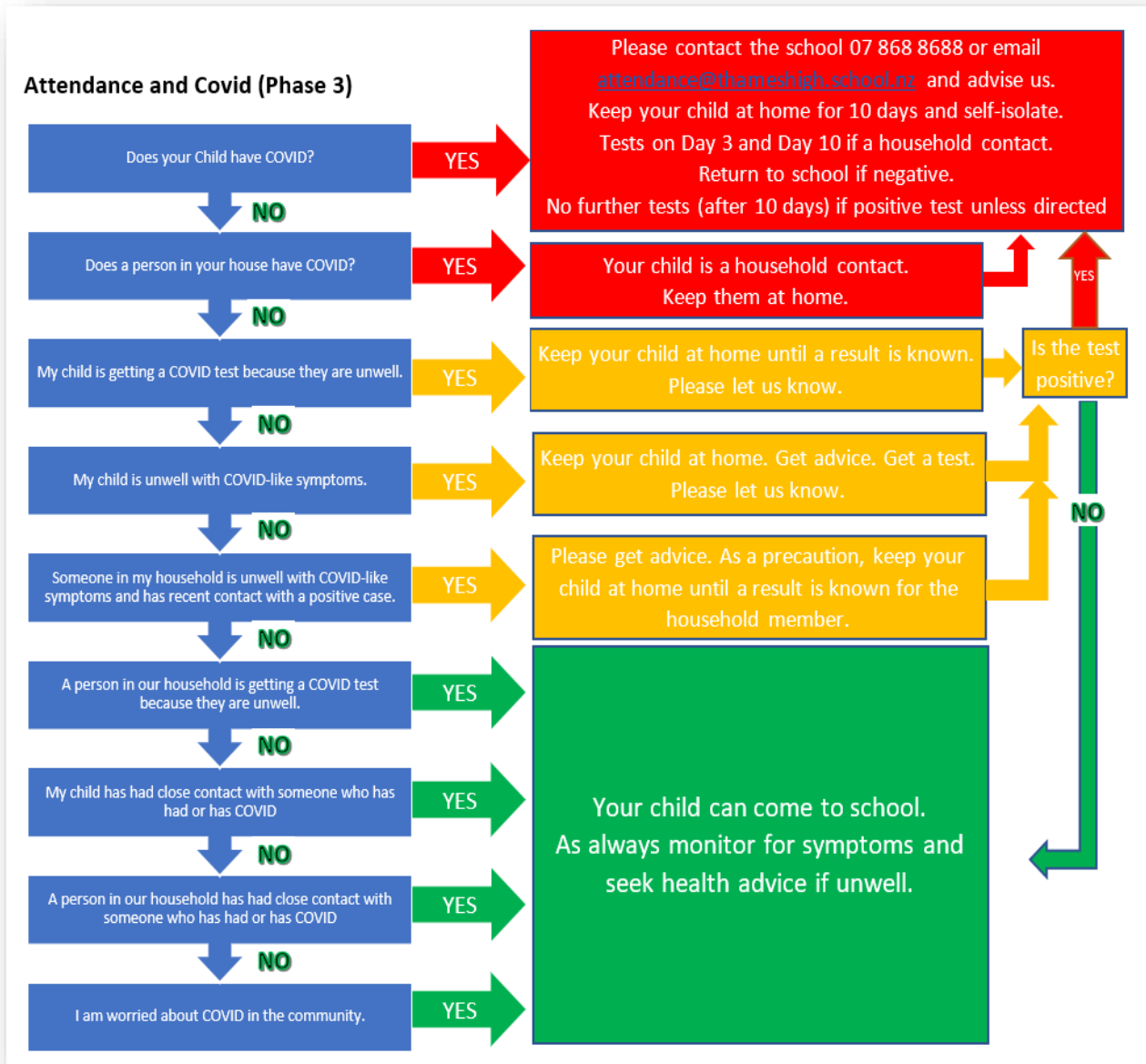
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Attendance

We have had lots of questions about the guidelines and attending school. Only people who are a positive case or a household close contact must self-isolate for 10 days. Those who are sick should also stay away, and there are some other situations where caution will be the best approach. **See the guide below that should help answer the question, should I keep my child home?** In most cases your child should come to school.



School work should be kept up with on Google Classroom. Please contact teachers if that is an issue. Please contact the school if you are still not sure and we will find the right person to talk to.

We are happy to ensure we provide work for those who must be away from school, but we are sure that being at school is the best option otherwise.

Individual circumstances can vary, so please call the school if you need to discuss. You can also contact the principal at principal@thameshigh.school.nz



Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT)

Hopefully you will have seen the news that from **Tuesday 1 March** you are able to 'Click n Collect' Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) locally, if you are sick or household contacts.

Please see details below:

RAT's will only be distributed to household contacts and/symptomatic patients.

Individuals must record their RAT results in [My Covid Tracer APP](#).

Locations	Site Address	Opening Hours
Thames	Rhodes Park 449 Ngati Maru Highway	8:30 – 10:30 DAILY
Coromandel	Coromandel Family Health Centre 80 Kapanga Road, Coromandel 3506	13:00 – 15:00 Weekdays
Whitianga	Moewai Sports Domain 25 Moewai Park Road, Whitianga	14:15 – 16:15 DAILY
Tairua	Tairua Community Hall 210 Main Road, Tairua	10:00 – 12:00 DAILY
Whangamata	Whangamata War Memorial Hall 326 Port Road, Whangamata	16:45 – 18:45 DAILY

For local support and advice, please ensure you stay up to date with your local GP, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki and Waikato DHB website and Facebook pages.

Te Korowai: <https://www.facebook.com/Te-Korowai-Hauora-o-Hauraki-1704753166493136>

Te Korowai: <https://korowai.co.nz/>

Waikato DHB: <https://www.facebook.com/WaikatoDHB>

Waikato DHB: <https://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/>

Health Navigator: <https://www.healthnavigator.org.nz/>

They also display weekly vaccination local sites.



Planning for more cases

While we are always optimistic, we are also realistic that we are likely to have more cases in the next couple of weeks as the covid-19 peak is predicted to occur.

As mentioned earlier we will remain open as much as possible, and only consider reduced onsite instruction if too many staff are absent.

Our first option is to cover classes with staff available, and that may include combining classes for supervision to work on tasks set by the teacher who may be working from home (if self-isolating). If the teacher is sick, then departments will provide relevant work for students to work on.

If we need to reduce student numbers to allow adequate staff supervision at school we will consider rostering home different year levels on different days, so we get a good mix of onsite and home learning.

The sequence is likely to be

- Years 12 and 13
- Year 11
- Year 10
- And only under extreme situations will we ask Year 9 to also roster home.

As part of this plan there is likely to be some additional time for practical subjects that may be able to offer 100% on site learning. That may mean for instance that Year 13 are rostered home, but a level 1 practical subject can still go ahead on site.

If we are very seriously affected by absences, we will always have some supervision available for those who cannot stay at home.

From a student / parent point of view it is important that you have **access to online learning (Google Classroom)** and/or **advise the school that hardcopy materials are needed.**

If access to a device is an issue, then please contact Student Support (studentsupport@thameshigh.school.nz) or phone the school 08 868 8688 for help. We can lend a device for the purposes of staying connected to learning.

Please do not hesitate to ask.

Buses

Go Bus will advise the school if a route cannot be run or will be delayed due to driver shortage or absence.

If students cannot come to school by bus, then we hope you can either make alternative arrangements or continue with learning online via Google Classroom. Contact teachers if needed.

