



### Frequently Asked Questions – Covid-19 (Phase 2)

In light of the move to Phase 2 of the Red phase of the Traffic Light system the following information may help to answer any queries you may have.

We know that there is the high possibility of disruptions to your lives and work in the coming weeks, and we thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Please note that we are not the “health experts”, but do know that the Ministry of Health (MoH) may be delayed in providing advice/guidance to you.

Please also note that this information is subject to change, based on any updated guideline from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health.

#### **What is the difference between a positive case, household/whānau of a positive case and a close contact?**

- **Positive Case** - Someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.
- **Household/Whānau** – People who live in the house with the person who tested positive.
- **Close Contact** – Someone who has had contact with a person with Covid-19 when they were infectious.

<p><b>POSITIVE CASE – you or your child tests positive</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have received a text with a positive result – self isolate for 10 days immediately (all household/whānau will also need to isolate)</li> <li>• Complete the survey using the link in the text from MoH to provide all necessary information to contact tracers to help them identify other close contacts</li> <li>• Email Catherine Cyprian <a href="mailto:principal@stellamaris.school.nz">principal@stellamaris.school.nz</a> to inform her that your child has tested positive. Email anyday, anytime.</li> <li>• Test on day 5 and then on day 8.</li> <li>• The child can stop isolating and return to school once you have received a negative day 8 result AND the 10 days have passed. (You will be notified by text of the negative/positive test result.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Household/Whānau members of a positive case</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All household/whānau member must self isolate for 10 days.</li> <li>• Test on day 5 and then on day 8.</li> <li>• You can stop isolating once you have received a negative day 8 result AND the 10 days have passed.</li> <li>• You will be notified of your test result (negative or positive) by text.</li> </ul>

<p><b>You or your child are a CLOSE CONTACT of a positive case</b></p>	<p><b>Close contact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The close contact must isolate for 7 days from the last point of contact with the positive case.</li> <li>• Test on day 5.</li> <li>• You can stop isolating once you have received a negative day 5 test AND 7 days have passed.</li> <li>• You will be notified of your test result (negative or positive) by text.</li> </ul> <p><b>Household/whānau member of close contact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other members of the household/whānau can continue as normal.</li> <li>• Monitor for symptoms.</li> <li>• If you develop symptoms you must get a test and isolate until you receive a negative result.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Casual Contacts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who are casual contacts may come to school and continue with normal routines.</li> <li>• Monitor for symptoms – get tested if you develop symptoms, then isolate until you receive a negative result.</li> </ul>

### Who do we advise if our child tests positive for Covid-19?

Please email Catherine Cyprian [principal@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:principal@stellamaris.school.nz) as soon as possible. Email anyday, anytime.

### What actions does the school take when there is a positive case?

We follow a response plan based on guidance from the Ministry of Education (MoE). This involves:

- Seeking confirmation of the positive case, and when the infectious period was.
- If this on a school day, we then work through contact tracing.
- We will advise classes that are close contacts, via email initially and follow up with a phone call if no response.
- If this occurs during a school day, we will request that you come and collect your child as soon as you are able to. Come to the front door, ring the doorbell and we will bring your child/ren out to you safely.
- The rest of the school will be advised of the case, and becomes casual contacts.

### How does the school work out who is a Close Contact?

There is detailed guidance around this and a range of criteria. Without going into detail, because our students spend a long time in the same classroom, this fits the criteria for being a close contact if they are unmasked, or if the positive case is unmasked.

### My child is a Close Contact. What does this mean?

- This means your child has had contact with a positive case in our school.
- They will need to isolate for 7 days and be tested on day 5. (NB: the 7 days start from the date they last had contact with the positive case at school. Because of the time lag between confirmed case becoming ill and test results, this may mean that your child may only need to remain at home for a smaller number of days).
- By the time you receive the notification of being a close contact, this may be around the time that the day 5 test is needed.
- We will advise you further regarding testing and isolation dates.

### **Do I need to provide anything before my child is able to return to school?**

Yes please. For positive Covid-19 cases or close contacts we would like to see the last negative test result please. Note: If your family chooses not to get the Covid-19 test done, the period of isolation will need to be extended.

### **If my child is a close contact, does the rest of our household/whānau also need to isolate?**

No, not for our region. We have received official direction from the Auckland Regional Health Board and MoE that this no longer applies to the Auckland region. Please note: the Covid-19 website still says that other household members of close contacts are casual contacts and also need to isolate for 5 days, but this does not apply to the Auckland area.

### **A member of our household/whānau is a close contact. Can my child still attend school?**

Yes, as above. Your child is able to attend school.

If they develop symptoms they need to stay home, have a test, and isolate until they receive a negative result.

### **We received the letter saying that our child is NOT a close contact. What do I need to do?**

Most importantly, your child is still able to attend school.

- You and your whānau should watch for symptoms.
- If any develop, get tested immediately.
- Then, stay home until you receive a negative result.
- Please keep an eye out for school communications.
- If your whānau hasn't been vaccinated, please consider doing so as soon as possible.

### **My child has tested positive for Covid-19. What does this mean?**

- This will mean that your child will need to isolate immediately.
- All household/whānau members will be close contacts and need to isolate.
- MoH will provide guidelines.
- Email Catherine Cyprian [principal@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:principal@stellamaris.school.nz) as soon as possible. Email anyday, anytime.

### **A member of our household has tested positive. What does this mean?**

This will mean that your child will be a close contact and also needs to isolate. MoH will provide more guidance.

### **Is it safe to send my child to school?**

Our processes involve working through a detailed contact tracing assessment. If your child is not a close contact, the school is still open for them and we encourage you to send them to school as much as you can. As you know, our students have missed a lot of teaching and learning over the past two years, and we really want to see them at school as much as possible.

Our school health and safety plan for Red does contain a large number of protections.

### **What are you doing to keep my child safe?**

- All staff onsite are vaccinated.
- We are ventilating all our rooms.
- Staff, and students in Yr 4-6 are wearing masks. Mask wearing by other students is encouraged.
- Everyone is to sanitise or wash their hands when they enter and leave a classroom/space.
- Each class is a bubble to assist with contact tracing and minimising contact between large groups.
- We have allocated areas for each class in the playground.

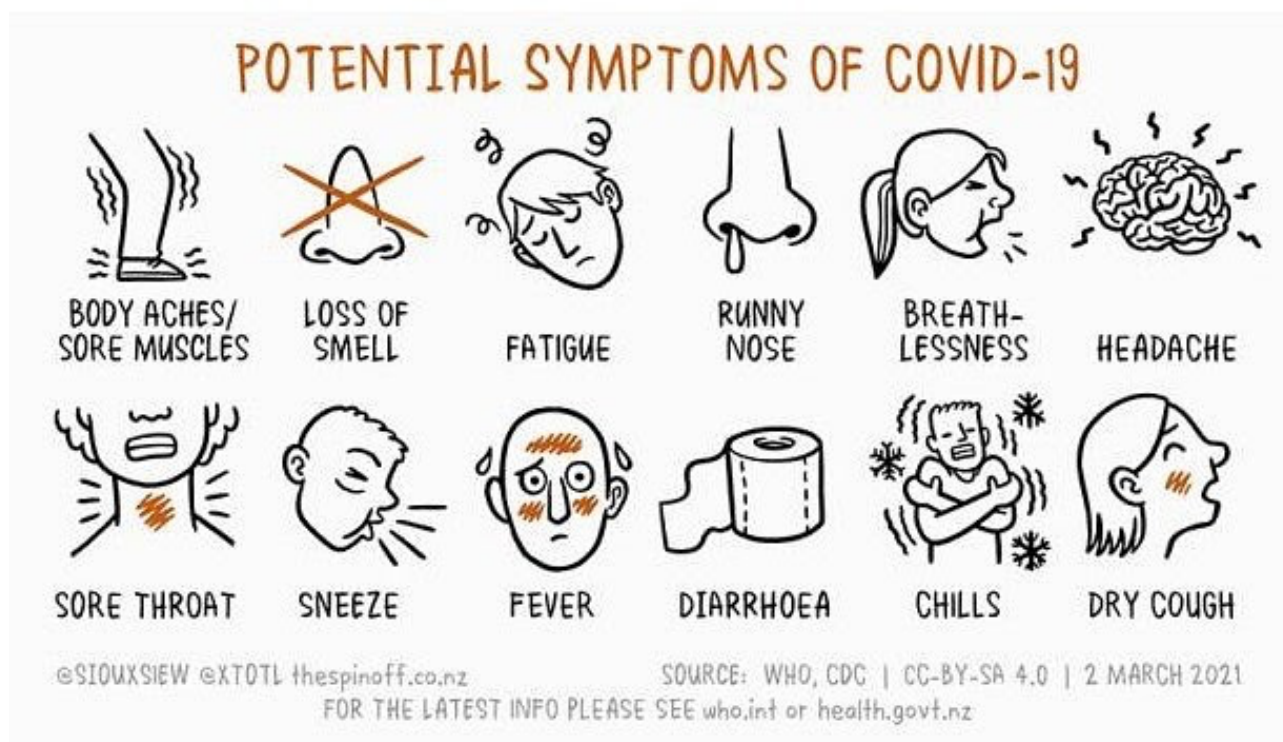
### My child is anxious or scared. What advice do you have?

Our onsite team are working hard to make school fun, safe and a place of learning. We encourage you to focus on the things that they can do to help – mask wearing, washing/sanitising their hands.

This website has some useful tips: <https://www.kidshealth.org.nz>

### My child is feeling unwell (e.g. cough, headache, sore throat...). Can I still send them to school?

Because these are all symptoms of Covid-19, please do not send your child to school. While these may be normal bugs/sniffles that occur, we encourage you to get your child tested to be sure.



### My child needs to isolate at home. What support will school provide around teaching and learning?

Our support and response will also depend on whether class teachers are sick or isolating at home. Each team has set up a Google Classroom with weekly activities that the students are able to access. If teachers are isolating at home they will be available for online support. However if they are sick other teachers in the team will provide this support.