

Dear Parents / Caregivers,
Teena koutou ki a koutou,

The emergence of Omicron at the recent SoundSplash event and this now being listed as a place of interest reminds us of the ongoing reality of living with COVID in the community.

If you are in a place of interest, please [follow the Ministry of Health requirements](#).

If you begin to develop symptoms get tested and stay off school until you receive the results of this test. If you are unsure, err on the side of caution and get a test done before you come back to CHS.

After a summer of carrying our face masks and signing in at every shop, we are well aware of the measures we are required to take to protect ourselves and limit the spread. It is great to know that we will not be facing any further lockdowns enabling us to live with relative freedom. This freedom means that we cannot know where every member of our school community has been recently. We all need to rely on staff, students and their families to follow Ministry of Health requirements regarding possible exposure to the virus and staying at home if unwell. The respect that the CHS community has shown for each other and our protocols in place here at school has enabled us to manage our safety well throughout this pandemic. With a more highly transmissible variant circulating in the community, this becomes even more important. Out of respect for the families in our school community who have work situations that would be compromised by isolation and vulnerable family members, please follow all requirements and COVID protocol requests.

If we get notified of a case, we will be taking steps to identify and contact close contacts and inform them of any isolation and testing requirements.

It remains an individual decision about whether to get the vaccination or not, however the evidence points to this as the best measure we currently have for protection. If you have not yet made up your mind I would encourage you to start your own research journey at the [COVID website](#).

If you are absent over the next while (either through illness, or self-isolation), please let us know at absences@camhigh.school.nz.

If you need support in returning to school, please contact your child's Form Teacher or House Dean in the first instance, to discuss a transition or safety plan for your child. The more we know about what is happening the more we can help you transition back to school safely.

We have responded to the challenge of COVID well as a community before and we appreciate your ongoing support and understanding. At times we anticipate being stretched thin at school through active cases or those required to self-isolate. In one example, we have been contacted by the bus companies. They are forewarning us that it is highly likely that some school transport services will need to be cancelled at very short notice due to drivers being unavailable (either by having contracted Covid-19 or by being a close contact of a Covid-19 positive person). It is unlikely that there will be replacement drivers readily available in this situation and will be in touch directly with those families impacted by this.

Thank you, in advance for your support, and if there is anything that we can do to further assist you in your situation, please get in touch with us.

Kind regards
Ngaa mihi

Greg Thornton