

Murupara Area School

# WE ARE NOW AT PHASE 3 OF OUR RESPONSE TO OMICRON



*Kia ora koutou katoa,*

Today's newsletter provides information about the school's COVID-19 response given that we have moved to Phase 3 and there are changes to our health and safety measures, primarily around the definition of contacts and who needs to isolate. I hope you find this helpful but do not hesitate to contact the Office or email me at [asharples@mas.school.nz](mailto:asharples@mas.school.nz) if you have any other questions or concerns. We are always here to help.

Don't forget to use the parent portal to keep in the know about your child's attendance and achievement. I would also ask that you update your contact details and provide us with an email address so we can contact you with updates and important information.

Kia pai tō rā whakatā

**Dr Angela Sharples, MNZM**  
**Principal**

## About Phase 3

There is COVID-19 in our community and as the number of cases across New Zealand increases we need to understand that they will appear in our school. We have really good systems in place to respond to this and to keep any spread of the virus to a minimum.

We have our first COVID-19 case associated with the school, a staff member tested positive yesterday, but this person had not been in school whilst infectious. They and their household contacts are now isolating.

[Research from New South Wales about their recent Omicron outbreak](#) shows that spread within the school setting is very low (less than 4% of cases at school infected someone else when at school). We are seeing that in New Zealand too.

This is why we remain open at Red. It is important for a child's wellbeing and learning to be at school with their friends and school staff, and we have very good systems in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We outline some information below that we hope you will find helpful and remind you to visit the Unite Against Covid-19 website to keep up to date with the latest advice and guidance

## KEY DATES

### School Term Dates 2021

Term 1	1 <sup>st</sup> Feb – 14 <sup>th</sup> April
Term 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> May – 8 <sup>th</sup> July
Term 3	25 <sup>th</sup> July – 30 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Term 4	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Dec

### School Contacts

PH: 07 3665 602

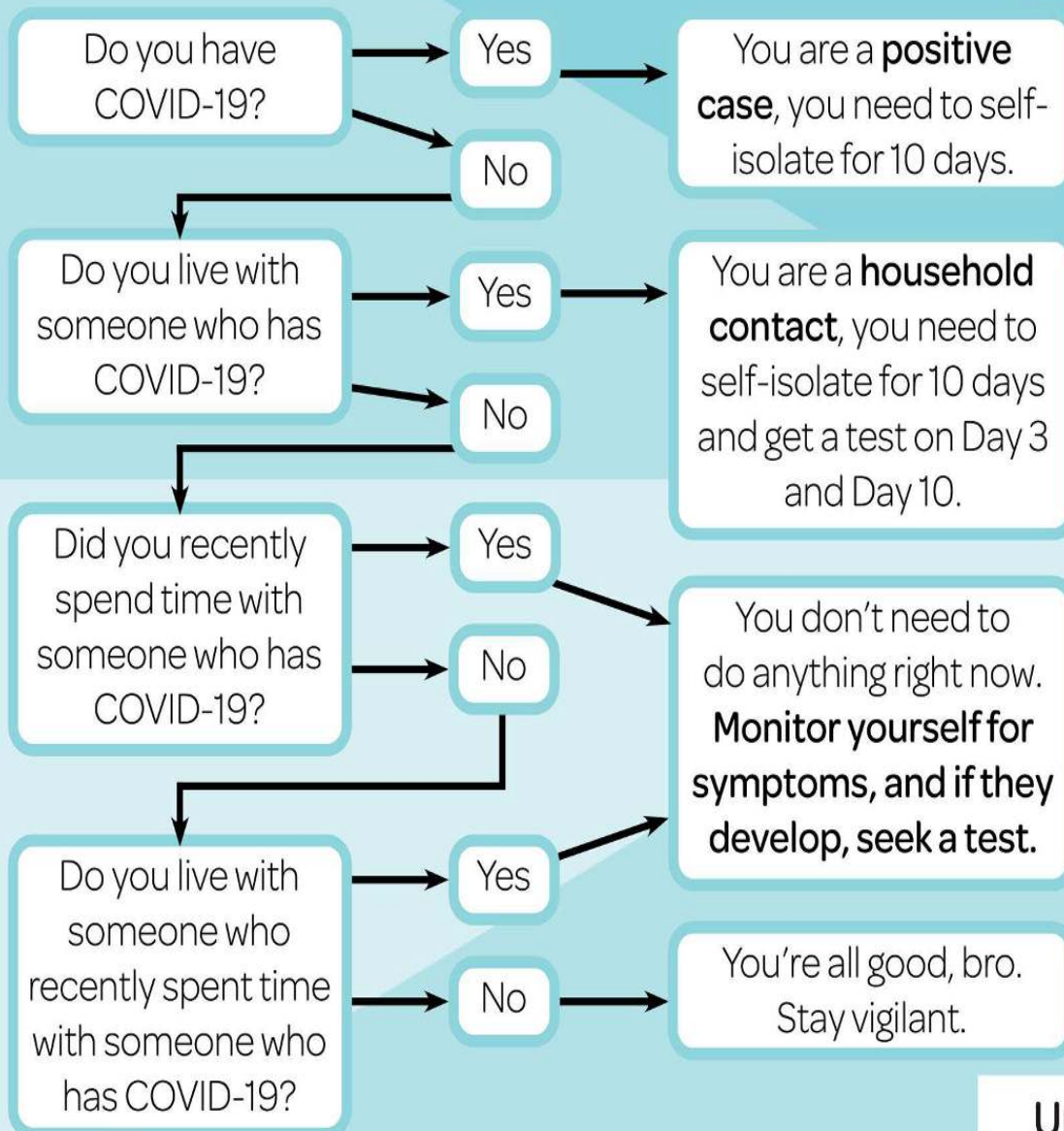
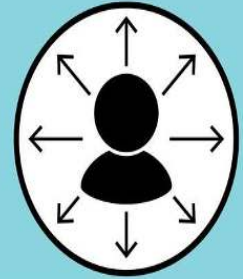
Email: [office@mas.school.nz](mailto:office@mas.school.nz)

## IMPORTANT

Don't forget you can look at the key dates and your child's attendance, NCEA achievement, and reports through the KAMAR Parent Portal. Ring the office if you aren't sure how to do this and they will help you get started. If you are using the app, enter [kamar.mas.school.nz](http://kamar.mas.school.nz) in the portal address box.

## Useful Guidelines to determine if you need to Isolate:

# What type of contact are you?



# 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/](https://www.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](https://www.Covid19.govt.nz)

**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

**Unite  
against  
COVID-19**

## Mask Wearing

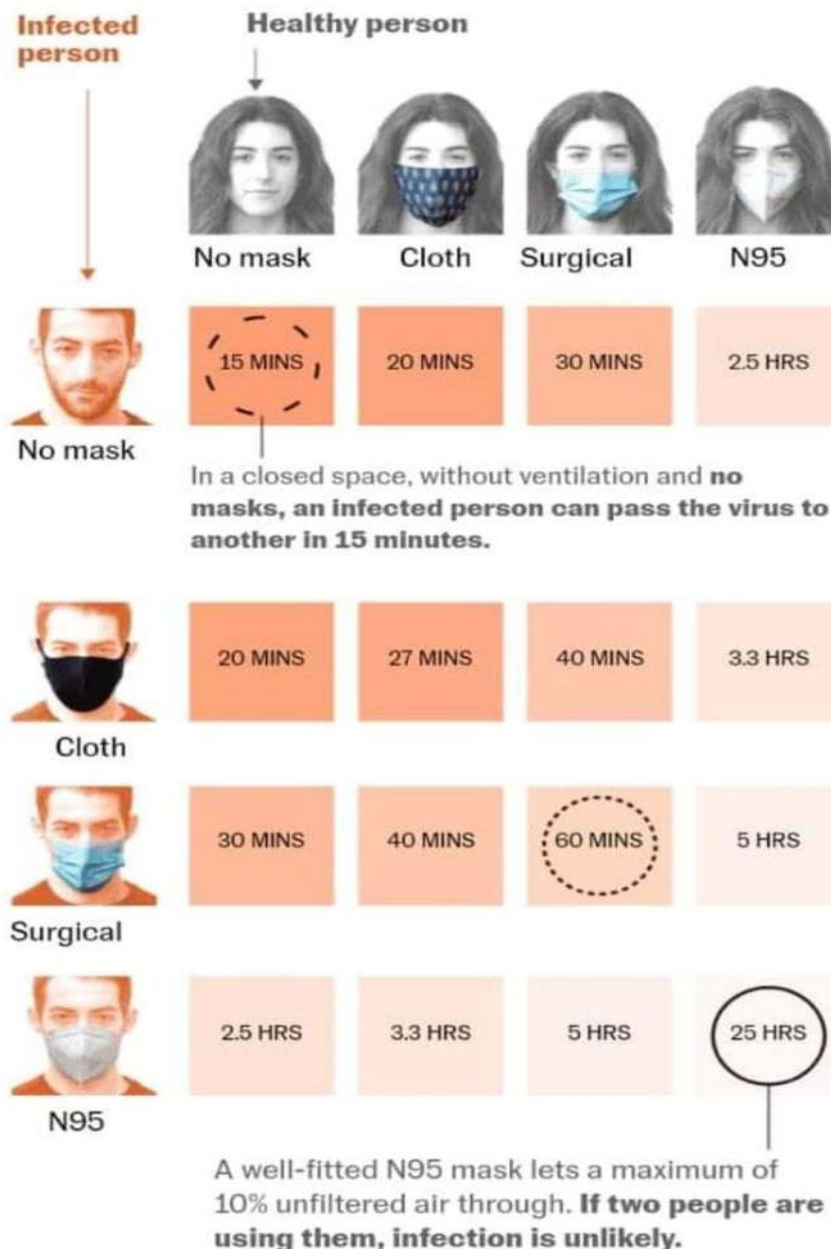
Years 4-13 when indoors, when they're on school and public transport must wear a mask. The mask must be attached to the head by loops around the ears or head and cover the nose and mouth properly. This can be a well-fitting reusable fabric mask (three layers are recommended) or a medical grade disposable mask (the blue surgical mask).

Teacher and staff who are supporting Year 4-13 students when indoors are required to wear a medical-grade mask such as the widely available blue disposable masks that many New Zealanders are already wearing.

The image shows how effective mask wearing can be in slowing the spread.

Please ensure your child has access to a mask. We do have a short supply at school and will endeavour to try and always have a supply, but please try to source your own masks.

With that, we would like to thank Little Vic's Takeaways and Yvonne Teddy for giving our school a supply of masks. Thank you!!







**Wear a  
face mask**



**Check your  
settings**



**Scan in**



**Wash hands**



**Have your  
vaccine  
pass ready**



**Get tested and  
stay home if  
you are sick**

# If your child does need to isolate these tips may help

<https://www.education.govt.nz/covid-19/covid-19-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>

## Create a physical space

If everyone in the family is learning or working from home - how can I ensure the environment supports my child to learn?

- Discuss and decide on the various areas at home for learning, working, resting and bonding together. For instance, your child could do his/her home based learning at the dining table while you work in the living room.
- Older children may also need a quiet space to learn, where and when could this occur
- When are the times when everyone may learn together or independently?
- Set up your respective areas as a family.

## Create a digital space

I've got one laptop, and three children learning at home. How do I manage?

There might not be a need to get more devices.

- Find out the different lessons and tasks assigned to your children
- Get them to prioritise these lessons/tasks based on urgency and importance
- Together, work out a schedule to decide who uses the device at what time
- Your children can use Wi-Fi-enabled mobile phones for online lessons that involve video conferencing
- Free up the laptops and tablets for assignments and lessons that are easier to access on these larger devices.

## Create a space for your work and their independence

Setting expectations: When I work from home, my child keeps asking me for help. I don't want to hurt their feelings by shutting them out, but I have work commitments too. Help!

It is natural for your child to approach you for help, but there are ways you can make this more manageable for yourself. Set expectations with your child – for instance:

- Be responsible (e.g. follow the timetable, no TV/online games until assignments/tasks are completed)
- Be respectful (e.g. when someone is engaged in a “live” lesson or teleconference, don't interrupt)
- Set boundaries (e.g. what does your child need to seek permission on, when should your child approach you)

## Establish new routines

- Draw up a family timetable together. Mark out the timeslots that each family member is busy and/or going “live” (for lessons or teleconferencing). This allows the family to know when they have to give privacy.
- It can be useful to start and end the day at the same time as usual, but remember learning doesn't need to happen between 9 and 3 and there may be things that you need your children to help with around the house like cleaning or laundry and that's ok, as long as it's part of your new routine.
- It's also easy to get carried away when working from home. Use the time saved from travelling to create new experiences with the family!
- Having a routine or schedule that works for the whole family is important so that everybody knows what to expect. Learning happens all the time, and can be woven in to your whānau routine. Remember it takes time to get in to a new routine. Take small steps and learn what works as you go.