STANHOPE
Friends, Learners, Guardians
Whakahoahoa, Akonga, Kaitiaki

COVID-19 Response
Frequently Asked Questions

Who do we advise if my child tests positive for Covid-19?	Please contact the Principal, Zane Wilson or Angela Smith in the school office as soon as possible after your child has received a positive test result. You will have been notified of this result via a text message. Email: zwilson@stanhope.school.nz or office@stanhope.school.nz or phone the school office on 579 6434 during school hours only. Please provide a contact number and: • Date of COVID test • Date of COVID result • A screenshot of the text message advising you of the positive result
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. This involves: • Seeking confirmation of the positive case, and when the infectious period was • If this was on a school day, we then work through contact tracing • We will advise classes that are close contacts, via email initially • If this occurs during a school day, we will request that you come and collect your child as soon as you are able to. Arrive at the main office, and we will bring your child(ren) out to you safely • Rest of school parents advised of the case via email, and becomes casual contacts
How do we work out who is a close contact?	There is detailed guidance around this and a range of criteria that schools are required to use when contact tracing. When doing so we consider factors such as the length of time that students are together inside the classroom, ventilation and mask wearing.
My child is a close contact. What does this mean?	This means your child has had contact with a positive case at our school. They will need to isolate for 7 days and be tested on day #5 (note – the 7 days start from the date that they were in contact with a positive case at school. Because of the time lag between the confirmed case/test results, this may mean that your child only needs to remain home for a smaller number of days). The day #5 test is likely when you would receive the notification of being a close contact.
Do I need to provide anything before my child is able to return to school?	Yes please. For positive Covid cases or close contacts we would like to see the last negative test result. Note: if your family chooses not to get the Covid test done, then the period of isolation will need to be extended.
If my child is a close contact, does the rest of our household also need to isolate?	No, not for our region. We have received official direction from the Auckland Regional Health Board and Ministry of Education 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 five days, **but this does not apply to the Waikato/Auckland areas.**

A member of our household is a close contact. Can my child still attend school?	Yes, as above. Your child is able to attend school.
We received the letter saying that my 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 at home until you receive the result • Please keep an eye out for school communications
My child has tested positive for Covid-19. What does this mean?	This will mean that your child will need to isolate. All family members will be close contacts and also need to isolate. Ministry of Health will provide more guidance.
A member of our household has tested positive. What does this mean?	This will mean that your child will need to isolate. Ministry of Health will provide more guidance.
My child is feeling unwell (e.g. cough, headache, sore throat etc) can I still send them to school?	As these are all symptoms of Covid-19, please do not send your child to school. While these may be the normal bugs/sniffles that occur, we encourage you to get your child tested.
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, then 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 Level does contain a large number of protections.
What are you doing to keep my child safe?	• All staff, volunteers, contractors on site are vaccinated • We are ventilating all our rooms • Staff and students in Year 4 and above are wearing masks • Mask wearing in Year 0-3 is encouraged • We have designated play areas for teams to ensure minimal contact • Regular time outdoors to ensure that students are not inside the classroom for extended periods of time
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 hands, getting a test (if required). This website has some useful tips – https://www.kidshealth.org.nz.
My child needs to isolate at home. What support will school provide around teaching and learning?	Our support and response will depend on whether class teachers are also isolating at home. If our teachers are also isolating, they will be in touch to offer our remote learning support (virtual connections, activities etc)

If you have questions regarding this information please email the school office – we are here to help!