

Auckland February Cluster

Correspondence to students, parents and staff include letters from the Auckland Regional Public Health Service, distributed by the school via email at various stages as cases came to light at Papatoetoe High School. The school's Facebook page was also updated with key messages of advice taken from the letters.

It is important to note that advice via letter to students, staff and parents did change as the situation evolved, i.e who initially had to get tested and who was required to isolate. When dealing with such a large community – 1,400+ students, staff and all of their households - it is important that we use a number of channels to communicate with people

As part of the contract tracing of cases, the Ministry of Health's National Investigation and Tracing Centre (NITC) made numerous phone calls to Cases, followed by text messages as needed (e.g. Case I's family in which two different phone numbers were used).

Public communications about the cases include the Ministry of Health's daily press releases, published on its website and distributed widely to media outlets. Press conferences were also held most days, available live on MOH website, RadioNZ, Newshub and TVNZ.

Please see copies of letters sent to the school community below:

- 14 February x 4
- 17 February
- 9 February
- 23 February



Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Ratonga Hauora-ā-Iwi o Tāmaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Waitemata and Counties Manukau

23 February 2021

Dear Parent, Student and Staff Member

One COVID-19 case at Papatoetoe High School

Another student has tested positive for COVID-19 this morning so the school will close this evening, until further notice.

The Ministry of Health is requiring everyone in the school community – students, staff, brothers and sisters and all household members – to stay at home.

Students and staff who got tested BEFORE yesterday, MON 22 FEB, are asked to get tested again.

Everyone in a Papatoetoe High School household needs to remain at home until all students and staff members have had a negative result from a test taken this week.

This means that everyone in the school community must stay away from work or any other school or educational facility until all the students or staff members in their own household have had a negative test result. This includes the supermarket, or any other place outside the home.

Students and staff will need to have a negative test result from a test taken on or after Monday 22 February before they can attend school. There will be further information on when the school will reopen.

There will be testing at the school this week, or you can go to a community testing centre. For information on testing locations in Auckland, visit www.arphs.health.nz/covid19test.

Please quote this code XXXXXXXXXX when you go for testing.

Any students, staff and household members with any symptoms should call Healthline on 0800 358 5453 immediately for advice, and they should stay at home, even if they have had a negative test result.

Everyone should watch for the symptoms of COVID-19

- New or worsening cough
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Temporary loss of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny nose.

Public Health has more information and fact sheets, visit the [COVID-19 page on www.arphs.health.nz](http://www.arphs.health.nz).

Thank you for your support in getting testing and in staying home.

Medical Officer of Health
Auckland Regional Public Health Service



19 February 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child needs a negative COVID-19 test result before returning to school on Monday

Papatoetoe High School will reopen on Monday, February 22. However, all students must have returned a negative COVID-19 test result *before* they can return to school.

What you need to do

If your child hasn't been tested yet, or was tested before February 15*, this is a friendly reminder that testing is needed, and will be available at the school this weekend.

We are also encouraging whānau who live with Papatoetoe High students to get tested if they haven't already, or were tested before February 15*.

Where to go

- What:** COVID-19 testing - FREE
Where: Papatoetoe High School
When: **This weekend - Saturday (9am – 5pm) and Sunday from (9am to 3pm)**
Take: The following code with you and give it to the testing staff when your child/your whānau go for testing: [REDACTED]. *This is a unique code, please do not share it outside of the school community.*

**Testing before February 15 would have been too early to pick up the virus if your child or whānau member was developing it. That's why it's important that anyone tested before February 15 gets a second test this weekend.*

Testing is also available at other Community Testing Centres. Check their locations and weekend opening times here: <https://www.arphs.health.nz/covid19test>, or call Healthline: 0800 358 5453.

Negative test results will be sent via txt or, in the unlikely event of a positive result, Public Health will call you. Please be sure to have a working mobile number you can give to testing staff.

If you have already been contacted by Public Health, have received the above information, and your child has already had a COVID-19 test on or after February 15, you do not need to do anything further at this time.

We wish you all the best for your return to school.

Thank you for your help

Medical Officer of Health
Auckland Regional Public Health Service



17 February 2021

Dear Parent, Student and Staff Member

Two COVID-19 cases at Papatoetoe High School

The two new cases of COVID-19 are Papatoetoe High School students from the same family, with one student in the same class as the case from Sunday. The school will now be closed until Monday 22 February 2021.

With two more cases, Public Health asks that **all students and staff are tested and must have a negative test result before they return to school on Monday.**

Siblings of students and children of staff who attend other schools should also remain at home until Monday.

Students and staff who are close contacts must remain at home in self-isolation, and their household members need to get tested (see Close Contact advice below).

Everyone in the school community – staff, students and household members – is asked to get a test, if they have not been tested since Feb 15.

A testing centre will be operating at the school on Saturday and Sunday. Testing is also available at other community testing centres in the area for anyone who needs to get tested – students, staff and household members. For information on testing locations in Auckland, visit www.arphs.health.nz/covid19test.

Please show this code when you get tested - [REDACTED].

All staff, students and household members who are not close contacts also need to take action:

- Everyone (including household members) is encouraged to stay home until Monday
- Students and staff cannot return to school unless they have had a negative test result.
- Siblings of students and children of staff should not attend school and Early Learning Services until Monday.
- All household members should work from home if they can.
- This also means that everyone in the school community is asked not attend large gatherings until Monday.
- All household members of all students and staff should be tested if they have not been tested since 15 February

- Do not attend school at any time if you are unwell. Please stay home if you develop any symptoms, and call Healthline on 0800 358 5453 and get tested again.
- If any household members are unwell or have COVID-19 symptoms, we ask that they stay home and get tested.

Close contacts

If you or your child has been told they are a close contact:

- Please have your second COVID-19 test and stay in self-isolation until 24 February, according to the advice given by Public Health.
- We now ask **all household members of close contacts to also have a test as soon as possible**, if they have not already had a test since 15 February. They need to stay in self-isolation until they receive a negative test result.
- **All household members with any symptoms** should call Healthline on 0800 358 5453 immediately, and they should stay at home, even if they have had a negative test result.

We realise that getting tested and staying away from work, school or large gatherings is inconvenient for everyone in the school community.

However, it is vital that everyone is tested on the weekend at the school if they have not already been tested to ensure there are no further cases of COVID-19 in the school community.

Everyone should watch for the symptoms of COVID-19

- New or worsening cough
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Temporary loss of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny nose.

If your child or anyone else in your household becomes unwell, please phone the 24-hour COVID-19 Health line number 0800 358 5453 and they will advise you what to do.

Public Health has more information and fact sheets, visit the [COVID-19 page on www.arphs.health.nz](https://www.arphs.health.nz).

Nga mihi

Thank you for your help

Medical Officer of Health
Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Casual plus letter for staff (not in classes with case)



14 February 2021

Dear staff member

COVID-19 case at Papatoetoe High School

A student at Papatoetoe High School has been confirmed as having COVID-19.

You have **not** been identified as a close contact and so are at low risk of becoming ill with the disease. However, as a precautionary measure, the school will be closed for the next two days – Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 February.

What you need to do

While there is only a small possibility of you becoming unwell, we are asking you to stay at home and get tested for COVID-19. A mobile testing unit will be on-site at the school tomorrow. The test is free.

Please take the following code with you and give it to the testing staff. This is a unique code and should not be shared with anyone else:

- [REDACTED]

Alternatively, you can visit one of the community testing centres to get tested today (see table below). A list of testing sites is also available on the Auckland Regional [Public Health Service website](https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/covid-19/where-to-get-tested/): <https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/covid-19/where-to-get-tested/>.

Please stay at home until you have returned a negative test result. You will receive this via text. In the unlikely event your result is positive, Public Health will be in contact with advice about what to do next.

Watch for COVID-19 symptoms

Please watch for the symptoms of COVID-19:

- New or worsening cough
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Temporary loss of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny nose. An [information sheet for casual contacts](#) is available on the [ARPHS website](#).

If you or anyone else in your household becomes unwell, please phone the 24-hour COVID-19 Health line number 0800 358 5453. Tell them you are a casual-plus contact of COVID-19; they will

advise you what to do. Please do not go to a medical or after hours clinic, but you can phone your medical clinic if you need further advice.

If you or anyone you live with has a weakened immune system (e.g. if they have an inherited immune problem or are receiving chemotherapy for cancer or similar), please contact your doctor immediately to discuss further.

For more information and fact sheets, visit the [COVID-19 page on www.arphs.health.nz](https://www.arphs.health.nz). Please phone Healthline on 0800 358 5453 if you have any queries around health or isolation.

We will update you with any new or different information or advice, if required, as our investigation continues.

Finally, if you know the identity of the case, please do not share this via personal networks, or social or other media; this can lead to online bullying and harassment.

Thank you for your help

Medical Officer of Health
Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Location	Centre Name	Operating Hours	Referral Process
NORTH	NORTHCOTE COMMUNITY TESTING CENTRE 16-18 College Road, Northcote. Corner of College Road and Kilham Avenue. Entrance via College Rd	Sun 14th Feb 8:30am – 6:00pm Mon 15th to Fri 19th Feb 8:30am – 4:30pm Sat 20th Feb 8:30am – 2:30pm	Walk-In/Drive Thru
CENTRAL	BALMORAL COMMUNITY TESTING CENTRE 182 Balmoral Road, Mount Eden, Auckland 1024	Sun 14th Feb 8:30am – 6:00pm Mon 15th to Fri 19th Feb 8:30am – 4:30pm Sat 20th Feb 8:30am – 2:30pm	
WEST	WHĀNAU HOUSE, WAIPAREIRA TRUST HENDERSON Corner of Edsel St & Catherine St, Henderson	Sun 14th Feb 8:00am – 4:00pm (or later if needed) Mon 15th to Fri 19th Feb 8:00am – 4:00pm	
WEST	HEALTH NEW LYNN Level 1 Carpark, Totara Health Services, McCrae Way, New Lynn	Mon 15th to Fri 19th Feb 8:30am – 4:30pm Sat 20th to Sun 21st Feb CLOSED	
SOUTH	THE WHĀNAU ORA COMMUNITY CLINIC 25 Druces Road, Wiri	Sun 14th Feb 1:00pm – 6:00pm Mon 15th to Fri 19th Feb 8:30am – 4:30pm Sat 20th Feb 8:30am – 2:30pm	
SOUTH	ŌTARA COMMUNITY TESTING CENTRE Otara Town Centre, 14 Fair Mall, Otara	Sun 14th Feb 10:00am – 6:00pm Mon 15th to Fri 19th Feb 8:30am – 4:00pm Sat 20th Feb CLOSED	

Casual plus letter for students (not in classes with case)



14 February 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian

COVID-19 case at Papatoetoe High School

A student at Papatoetoe High School has been confirmed as having COVID-19.

Your child has **not** been identified as a close contact and so is at low risk of becoming ill with the disease. However, as a precautionary measure, the school will be closed for the next two days – Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 February.

What you need to do

While there is only a small possibility of your child becoming unwell, we are asking that they stay at home and get tested for COVID-19. A mobile testing unit will be on-site at the school tomorrow. The test is free.

Please take the following code with you and give it to the testing staff. This is a unique code and should not be shared with anyone else:

- [REDACTED]

Alternatively, you can visit one of the community testing centres to get tested today (see table below). A list of testing sites is also available on the Auckland Regional [Public Health Service website](https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/covid-19/where-to-get-tested/): <https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/covid-19/where-to-get-tested/>.

Please keep your child at home until they have returned a negative test result. You will receive this via text. In the unlikely event their result is positive, Public Health will be in contact with advice about what to do next.

Watch for COVID-19 symptoms

Please watch for the symptoms of COVID-19:

- New or worsening cough
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Temporary loss of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny nose. An [information sheet for casual contacts](#) is available on the [ARPHS website](#).

If your child or anyone else in your household becomes unwell, please phone the 24-hour COVID-19 Health line number 0800 358 5453. Tell them your child is a casual-plus contact of COVID-19;

they will advise you what to do. Please do not take your child to a medical or after hours clinic, but you can phone your medical clinic if you need further advice.

If your child has a weakened immune system (e.g. if they have an inherited immune problem or are receiving chemotherapy for cancer or similar), please contact your doctor immediately to discuss further.

For more information and fact sheets, visit the [COVID-19 page on www.arphs.health.nz](https://www.arphs.health.nz). Please phone Healthline on 0800 358 5453 if you have any queries around health or isolation.

We will update you with any new or different information or advice, if required, as our investigation continues.

Finally, if you know the identity of the case, please do not share this via personal networks, or social or other media; this can lead to online bullying and harassment.

Thank you for your help

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Letter for staff in case classes (close contacts)



14 February 2021

Dear Staff member,

COVID-19 case at Papatoetoe High School

A student at Papatoetoe High School has been confirmed as having COVID-19.

You have been identified as a close contact – that means you were near the person (e.g. shared a classroom) with COVID-19 during their infectious period. As a precautionary measure, the school will be closed for the next two days – Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 February.

What do you need to do?

We are asking all school staff and students to stay at home and get tested for COVID-19. Most staff and students will be able to return to school once they return a negative result. As you are considered a close contact, the advice for you is slightly different. Please:

- Stay at home in self-isolation **until the end of Wednesday 24 February**, except for
- Getting a test tomorrow, **Monday 15 February**; a mobile testing unit will be available at the school.

Important: *The people you live with will need to stay at home in self-isolation until you return a negative test result. They can then return to normal daily life (they do not need to self-isolate until the 24th as you do).*

Please take the following code with you and give it to the staff when you go for testing. This is a unique code and should not be shared with anyone else:

- XXXXXXXXXX

Alternatively, you can visit one of the community testing centres tomorrow (see table below). A list of testing sites is also available on the Auckland Regional [Public Health Service website](https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/covid-19/where-to-get-tested/):

<https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/covid-19/where-to-get-tested/>.

It is vital to self-isolate until Wednesday 24 February *even if you return a negative test result. This is because you may still be developing the virus.*

Information about self-isolation is available [here](https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/covid-19/for-cases-and-contacts/) on the Auckland Regional Public Health Service website: <https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/covid-19/for-cases-and-contacts/>.

Watch for the symptoms of COVID-19

Please watch for the symptoms of COVID-19:

- New or worsening cough
- Fever

- Sore throat
- Temporary loss of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny nose.

If you or anyone else in your household becomes unwell, please phone the 24-hour COVID-19 Health line number 0800 358 5453. Tell them you are a close contact of a COVID-19 case; they will advise you what to do. Please do not go to a medical or after hours clinic, but you can phone your medical clinic if you need further advice.

If you or anyone you live with has a weakened immune system (e.g. if you have an inherited immune problem or are receiving chemotherapy for cancer or similar), please contact your doctor immediately to discuss further.

For more information and fact sheets, visit the [COVID-19 page on www.arphs.health.nz](https://www.arphs.health.nz). Please phone Healthline on 0800 358 5453 if you have any queries around health or isolation.

We will update you with any new or different information or advice, if required, as our investigation continues.

Finally, if you know the identity of the case, please do not share this via personal networks, or social or other media; this can lead to online bullying and harassment.

Thank you for your help

Medical Officer of Health
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Letter for students in case classes (close contacts)



14 February 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian

COVID-19 case at Papatoetoe High School

A student at Papatoetoe High School has been confirmed as having COVID-19.

Your child has been identified as a close contact – that means they were near the person (e.g. shared a classroom) with COVID-19 during their infectious period. As a precautionary measure, the school will be closed for the next two days – Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 February.

What do you need to do?

We are asking all school staff and students to stay at home and get tested for COVID-19. Most staff and students will be able to return to school once they return a negative result. As your child is considered a close contact, the advice for you is slightly different. Please:

- Keep your child at home in self-isolation **until the end of Wednesday 24 February**, except for
- Getting a test tomorrow, **Monday 15 February**; a mobile testing unit will be available at the school.

Important: *The people who live at home with your child will also need to stay at home in self-isolation until your child returns a negative result. They can then return to normal daily life (they do not need to self-isolate until the 24th as your child does).*

Please take the following code with you and give it to the staff when you take your child for testing. This is a unique code and should not be shared with anyone else:

- XXXXXXXXXX

Alternatively, you can visit one of the community testing centres tomorrow (see table below). A list of testing sites is also available on the Auckland Regional [Public Health Service website](https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/covid-19/where-to-get-tested/): <https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/covid-19/where-to-get-tested/>.

It is vital that your child self-isolates until Wednesday 24 February *even if they return a negative test result. This is because they may still be developing the virus.* Public Health will call you each day to check on your child's health and wellbeing.

Information about self-isolation is available [here](https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/covid-19/for-cases-and-contacts/) on the Auckland Regional Public Health Service website: <https://www.arphs.health.nz/public-health-topics/covid-19/for-cases-and-contacts/>.

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