



16th June

Rangitoto College Newsletter

Covid 19 Update:

It has been pleasing to see the reduction in student positive case numbers and those students self-isolating due to being a household contact. There has been an increase in winter illness which is usual for this period of the year, and we would ask those students who are unwell to stay at home, rest and recover fully before returning to schoolwork.

Please continue to notify the school of all positive Covid-19 cases, as well as those who are self-isolating due to being Household Contacts. Please refer to the flowchart link and complete the Google Form for all positive cases.

Staffing continues to be a concern as we have at times stretched our teaching resources to cover those staff unable to be on site. We have been fortunate to this point not to have to take measures implemented by other schools in order to continue teaching on site, but we will continue to monitor this and communicate if this situation changes. The addition of winter illness amongst staff does compound the situation for us.

Norovirus:

We have been advised by Auckland Regional Public Health Service that Norovirus is present in Auckland; people of all ages can get infected and sick. Norovirus is a group of viruses that infect the stomach or gut and can cause vomiting and diarrhoea (gastroenteritis). The virus can survive long periods outside the body (e.g. on surfaces) and is highly contagious. Symptoms can last from 12 to 72 hours, but some people may be unwell for longer. There is no specific treatment or vaccination for norovirus. It is not treated with antibiotics because it is caused by a virus, not bacteria. Handwashing and sanitisation measures are key to prevent the spread. Dehydration is the main cause of serious illness from norovirus, so it's important to drink extra fluid and rest to aid recovery. Children and older adults are especially at risk from dehydration.

If a student is identified as possibly having Norovirus, we will immediately arrange for the ill person to go home or be collected. The infected person should not return until 48 hours after their symptoms have stopped.

Google Meets:

Earlier this year when many of our students were having to self-isolate at home due to being close contacts, casual contacts or household contacts, the school implemented a temporary process of online Google Meets to allow students who were physically well, but isolating from the college, an aural portal into the classroom.

The number of students who are either Covid positive or self-isolating at home due to being a household contact has significantly reduced compared to Term 1. In Week 6 of Term 1 there were 269 students out of the college due to self-isolating as a household contact, compared to Week 6 of this term when that number was 33. With this in mind, the decision has been made to remove the Google Meet option for classes and instead have all of the resources that students require uploaded into the Google Classroom.

Students who are unwell with Covid, or any other illness, are not expected to engage with the Google Classroom resources, as they need to focus on getting well, to ensure they can return to school in a timely manner. Students who are at home self-isolating as a household contact, and are therefore well, should use the Google Classroom resources to keep up with classwork. If students have any specific concerns with the assigned

classwork, they can email their teacher directly for additional support. All students who are well, should of course be in school. The best place for learning is in the classroom with your teacher; research shows that attendance correlates highly with educational outcomes.

This will take effect after the long weekend celebrating Matariki; so from Monday 27th June, Google Meets will not be scheduled and resources will be available in the Google Classroom. Online Lite teaching may still occur.

Please note the distinction between the following:

Google Meet - The teacher and students on site and self- isolating students welcomed into a Google Meet to hear the explicit teaching.

Online Lite - The teacher is self-isolating, and all of the students are present in the classroom and join a Google Meet so the teacher can teach content, for a minimum of 20 minutes. A reliever is present in the classroom to supervise while students work on Google Classroom activities.

Teacher Training programme:

Rangitoto College is proud to be part of the Auckland Schools' Teacher Training programme which sees talented trainee teachers work in top Auckland high schools whilst completing their qualifications. We are currently seeking applicants from prospective teachers for our 2023 intake; we welcome applicants from all subject areas, with STEM specialists particularly sought. By training on-site with us, trainee teachers have the opportunity to be mentored by experts in their subject area and gain industry experience. This is an excellent opportunity for those looking for a career change into teaching, please feel free to forward this to anyone you know who a suitable candidate may be.

More information on the programme is available at our school website (<https://www.rangitoto.school.nz/employment/auckland-schools-teacher-training/>), and details regarding applications are available at our vacancies page (<https://www.rangitoto.school.nz/employment/rangitoto-college-vacancies/>).

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the week.

Kind regards



Patrick Gale
PRINCIPAL