



COVID-19 Update #24 to Wee Nippers Community

22 February 2022

Tēnā koutou Wee Nippers families and whānau,

How are you all? A bit like us, we're sure you are bracing for the incoming Omicron wave. While we've been here before, we have been lucky not to have community transmission to deal with. And very clearly that is now happening in our communities. We know that it is not if, but when COVID reaches our Centre doors. So, this update is to advise you of our planning.

The wider context is that we are operating in Traffic Light Red.

Green is when COVID-19 is across New Zealand, including sporadic imported cases. Community transmission is limited and COVID-19 hospitalisations will be at a manageable level. The health system will be ready to respond, including primary care, public health, and hospitals.

Orange is when there will be community transmission, with pressure on our health system. The whole of health system is focussing its resources, but can manage primary care, public health, and hospitals. There may also be an increasing risk for at-risk people.

Red is when action is needed to protect at-risk people and protect our health system from an unsustainable number of hospitalisations.

At Red, ECEs, schools, kura and tertiary providers are open, with public health measures in place. Health, safety and wellbeing is our #1 priority. 100% of our team are double-vaccinated and many are already boosted. 100% of our children are not vaccinated. We continue with public health measures you are very familiar with, but we have increased some requirements.

Please read the following carefully.

Wee Nippers increased Health & Safety Measures effective by Thursday 24 February 2022

Back to Bubbles

If the Centres were to close, more than 200 families would be impacted. We are reinstating classroom bubbles to limit any spread and minimize contact between rooms with the aim that we can have a partial closure rather than a full closure if COVID enters the Centre.

- We will have three bubbles.
- Bubble One: Koru & ToeToe and Piwakawaka & Hoiho.

- Bubble Two: Kowhai & Pukeko.
- Bubble Three: Rata & Kiwi.
- Team members will stay in their own bubbles and casual relievers must wear a mask when on site.
- All team members will be masked when in any common areas e.g. reception, staff room, laundry, staff bathrooms, non-contact room, entering and exiting the building, hallways. Some may choose to wear a mask all day.
- Essential meetings only to be held in person. All attending will wear masks and physical distance is required. Zoom meetings will take place for all other meetings.
- Maximum of three staff members in the staffroom at any time.
- A temporary fence will be constructed in the Kowhai/Rata and Pukeko/Kiwi playgrounds to separate the Bubbles.
- No teachers will enter the kitchen.
- No teachers will enter a classroom that is not their Bubble and transition between Under Two rooms that are sharing a bubble will be minimised.
- Natalie & Marie and Rachel & Kim will wear masks and maintain physical distancing between 7:30 & 9:30 and 3pm-5pm in reception and whenever anyone comes to the Centre reception outside of these times.
- Extra sanitising stations will be set up around the Centre where needed.
- Toilets will be marked as dedicated to a Bubble.

When visiting the Centre for drop offs and pick ups

- Wear a mask at all times and sanitise your hands before entering. We have supplies of masks and sanitiser at the front door.
- Scan in to the COVID-19 QR code or sign the contact tracing register before signing your child(ren) in or out of the Centre on the iPads.
- Limit to one parent accompanying child(ren) and no siblings past reception for drop off or pick up.
- Limit to two parents (from different families) entering the classroom at once to pick up or drop off child(ren). Please wait outside the classroom at a 2metre distance from any other parents if there are already two parents in the classroom.
- Limit to 5 minutes at the absolute most in a classroom to settle children or speak briefly with teachers. Please choose to message teachers via Storypark to have a discussion or set up an appointment in the non-contact room for any discussion that will take longer than a couple of minutes.
- Please stay within the drop off/pick up zone marked on the carpet.

Cleaning Protocols

Each night our cleaning team do a fantastic job of making sure that the activities of the day are cleaned up and the Centre is ready for the next day. This is on top of scheduled and unscheduled cleaning that happens throughout each day.

Ventilation

Our purpose-built Centres have scheduled cleaning and maintenance of multiple ventilation units. Our fresh air sleeping policy has many benefits, and we will continue with this approach.

What to expect if Wee Nippers has a COVID case amongst children or Team members

If a team member or child in a Bubble is reported as testing positive for COVID-19 or is a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case;

- That classroom Bubble will be closed as soon as practicably possible.
- Parents in that Bubble will be informed and asked to pick up their child as soon as convenient.
- Siblings of a child or children of a team member in the Bubble will also be required to leave the Centre for self-isolation.
- The classroom will remain closed for 7 days as all children and team members associated with that Bubble self-isolate.
- Refer to the attached Fee Policy. There will be no fees or meal charges while a child is self-isolating.
- For the first few cases at a Centre at least, we will also send out an email notice to all parents advising them of the case (but this may cease when it becomes more regular).
- Nat and Rachel will be in regular contact with parents of a self-isolating child to check in on health and wellbeing and to keep you informed as to classroom reopening.

YOUR CHILD MUST SELF-ISOLATE FOR 7 DAYS (from the date we advise you that they had contact with the case)

- Get tested on DAY 5
- Your child can stop isolating and RETURN to normal life once you have received a negative day 5 test AND once 7 days have passed (ie. on day 8).
- Follow public health advice on the Ministry of Health website: [health.govt.nz/covid-19-contact](https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-contact)

HOW TO GET TESTED

- Find your nearest testing centre at [healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19](https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19) or call Healthline on 0800 358 5453
- It's FREE
- Tell them your Child is a CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT IT MEANS TO SELF-ISOLATE

- Your child must stay away from other household members if possible
- If possible, have one adult care for your child and self-isolate with them
- Your child cannot leave the house for any reason
- They can't have any visitors

www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-self-isolation-managed-isolation-quarantine#whattodo

Symptoms of COVID-19

- A new or worsening cough
- Sneezing and runny nose
- A fever
- Temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath

- Less common symptoms include diarrhoea, headache, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, malaise, chest pain, abdominal pain, joint pain, or confusion/irritability.
- For more information, go to [covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/about-covid-19/covid-19-symptoms/](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/about-covid-19/covid-19-symptoms/)

For more information on being a Close Contact

www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/contact-tracing-covid-19#factsheets

Where you can get support

If you need support during self-isolation, call the COVID Welfare Phone Line on 0800 512 337. They will connect you with someone who can help. This could be a local community organisation, a government agency, a marae-based service or support that iwi have established.

For more information go to <https://covid19.govt.nz/isolation-and-care/getting-extra-support-if-you-have-covid-19-or-are-self-isolating/>

By being consistent with the measures we are putting in place: having separate rooms/bubbles, social distancing between teachers and mask wearing in all common areas, this will allow us to only have to close one room if we have any confirmed cases and reduce the amount of close contacts.

We want to try our best to remain open for our children and families.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

We're expecting the next 3-8 weeks to be our toughest challenge yet. We'll get through this if we all do what we can for each other.

Nga mihi

Rachel Cade	Natalie Tisdall	George Crossan	Simone Flight
manager.invercargill@weenippers.co.nz	manager.mosgiel@weenippers.co.nz	george.crossan@weenippers.co.nz	simone.flight@weenippers.co.nz
027 518 7050	027 518 7555	027 518 7550	021 1656 218

Quick links: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>
<http://www.weenippers.co.nz/news/covid-19-updates/>
<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/>
<https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/how-to-get-a-covid-19-vaccination/>
<https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/covid-19-protection-framework/>