



Ata marie,

Overnight we received more information that describes how low the risk to our school trip to the ballet on Friday 13th was. This new information is a result of a review of CCTV footage at the Aotea Centre.

A copy of the complete email is below.

-Grant

From: Lester McGrath <Lester@rnzb.org.nz>
Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2021 10:26 PM
To: Lester McGrath
Cc:
Subject: UPDATE - COVID LOCATION OF INTEREST: AOTEA CENTRE, AUCKLAND

Kia ora koutou,

Further to my email this morning, I am writing to advise that the CCTV footage retrieved by Aotea Centre management ("Auckland Live") shows the casual staff member, who was later identified as having COVID-19, was not in the stalls foyer when school groups were arriving at the Aotea Centre on Friday 13th of August and did not come in contact with any school students while within the venue.

Specifically, Auckland Live's Head of Visitor Experience says:

1. Covid positive colleague entered Owens Foyer via Bledisloe Lane entrance. Spoke briefly with Auckland Unlimited Security guard, (actually hugged him so he is now also self-isolating), who was waiting at the entrance for the school groups who were yet to arrive,
2. Enters the side door to the Event Services Office, (this is secondary entrance beside the EVCO office and not the main sliding door across the Foyer), so did not go further into the foyer than this.
3. School groups arrive and enter the theatre while Covid positive colleague is in the Event Services Office.
4. Covid positive colleague exits the Event Services office via the same side door with 2 additional colleagues and exits the building.

Auckland Live has also made the following media statement:

Media statement from Auckland Live

A staff member who has since tested positive for COVID-19 was in the Aotea Centre for a brief window from 12:15pm to 12:30pm on Friday, 13 August. The person entered and left during a side entrance and did not interact or mingle with any members of the public during the 15 minutes they were at the Centre. They spent time in one office, and only a couple of staff members were identified as close contacts.

As a precaution, all staff members, clients, Royal New Zealand Ballet and the school groups who were attending the ballet performance in the Centre during that window have been advised to follow the Ministry of Health advice: get tested, call Healthline and follow official instructions.

We are undertaking a thorough clean of the venue to ensure it is safe for our staff and the public to enter when our doors reopen.

Please feel free to pass information on through your networks. The dancers and team at the Royal New Zealand Ballet sends their best wishes to the staff, students and parents of schools who attended the matinee performance of *The Firebird*, and hopes that everyone who attended the performance returns a negative test.

I will keep you updated with any further information as it comes to hand.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Lester McGrath

Executive Director | Royal New Zealand Ballet

PO Box 27050 | Wellington 6141

ph: +64 4 381 9004 m: +64 21 659 962 e: lester@rnzb.org.nz

