

Date: October 30, 2021

Dear Orono Public School Community,

This letter is to inform you that Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) has declared an outbreak of COVID-19 at **Orono Public School**. For further information about COVID-19 outbreaks, see [Facts About Outbreaks in Schools and Childcares](#).

Those identified as close contacts have been isolating at home and will be contacted by Public Health. Staff and students who were not dismissed from school are deemed low risk and should self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Common COVID-19 symptoms include fever (temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), chills, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, decrease or loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea. Other symptoms for adults over 18 may include fatigue (generally feeling unwell or tired), or muscle aches and pain. For more information about COVID-19, visit www.durham.ca/COVID19.

Based on Public Health advice, we are implementing the following outbreak strategies:

- Posting outbreak signage at entrances and affected areas
- Only allowing essential visitors into the school or the affected area and inform outside agencies that use the school/childcare of the outbreak
- Further minimizing the movement of staff between cohorts
- Limiting student activities to their required cohorts and discontinuing extra-curricular activities, as much as possible
- Recommending to staff, students and their families who are in the outbreak cohort to avoid close contact/interactions with other households for non-essential reasons (e.g., no visiting, no playdates, no carpooling).
- Restricting all staff (including school, transportation, and staff from home care agencies or others that provide medical services to those in school) from working in other school or childcare locations
- Reinforcing masking of students for source control based on requirements for their age, use of mask and eye protection for staff members, hand hygiene for all, and maintaining physical distancing
- Reviewing the daily symptom screening process for all staff/essential visitors and students and enhance if needed. Refer to daily screening tool found <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>
- Reviewing the environmental cleaning and disinfection practices, and enhanced cleaning and disinfection for the outbreak area(s) and ensure that products are being used as per manufacturers' instructions

For more information about COVID-19, please visit Durham.ca/COVID19

Sincerely,

Setina MacLean
Principal