

## **Subject: Case of COVID-19 at Orono Public School**

November 4, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

The well-being of our students and staff is our top priority. With that in mind, we are letting you know that the Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) has notified us of a third case of COVID-19 associated with the current outbreak at our school. The identity of the individual is protected by privacy legislation and will not be shared. We wish them a full and speedy recovery.

**Those identified as close contacts are already isolating at home. Staff and students who were not dismissed from school are deemed low risk and should self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.**

As we shared with you this weekend, DRHD has declared an outbreak at Orono PS. The term 'outbreak' is used provincially by public health units when they believe there is evidence that at least one person could have reasonably acquired their infection within the school. We continue to work closely with DRHD to respond to this issue, and we continue to follow all public health and provincial guidelines to protect student and staff safety.

Please continue to [self screen](#) daily before entering the school. 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 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, please visit [www.durham.ca/COVID19](http://www.durham.ca/COVID19).

If staff or students develop one or more symptoms, immediately self-isolate, get tested at a local COVID-19 Assessment Centre at [covidswab.lh.ca](http://covidswab.lh.ca). If you are unable to self-refer online follow up with Durham Health Connection Line (DHCL) at 1-800-841-2729.

Follow these steps to help protect yourself from COVID-19:

- wear a non-medical mask or face covering
- wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- avoid contact with people who are sick
- stay home and self-isolate if you are sick
- use physical distancing
- [self screen daily](#)
- get [vaccinated for COVID-19](#), if eligible

Our school remains open, and as always, we continue to follow all public health and provincial recommendations, including thorough cleaning and disinfecting of all areas; frequent and proper handwashing by everyone in the building; wearing masks; maintaining physical distancing to the fullest extent possible, and following any other steps directed by Durham Region Health. In addition to these steps, our school will be disinfected by an electrostatic sprayer tonight.

For COVID-19 [information in different languages, please click here](#).

We will let families know of any further developments. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Setina MacLean  
Principal