

Student/Staff Tests Positive for COVID-19

Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) receives the positive test result and contacts the staff or student (or student's parent/guardian) to conduct case and contact management.

DRHD COVID-19 Lead or designate will contact School Board COVID-19 Lead to inform of positive case.

School public health nurse contacts school principal to begin contact management.

Students/staff who test positive for COVID-19 will remain in isolation until these conditions have been met:

- 1) They have isolated for a minimum of 10 days after the onset of symptoms/date of test results.
- 2) They have been fever free for 24 hours (without taking medication).
- 3) Their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours.
- 4) They have been released from isolation by the DRHD.

Students or staff do not need medical notes to return to school.

DRHD/public health will provide guidance and conduct daily follow-up with the case and contacts of a positive case.

Working with the school PHN, school administrator provides contact information to DRHD for student/staff who tested positive for COVID-19 **(within 24 hours of request)**

DRHD will:

- 1) Perform risk assessment of contacts (cohorts) of positive individual and will advise all contacts of need for self-isolation or self-monitoring.
- 2) Support school/school board with parent communication
- 3) Determine if an outbreak will be declared and when the outbreak is over
- 4) Organize/facilitate testing

School distributes communications to parents, guardians, and staff and implements infection prevention and control measures

Information needed may include:

- Attendance records
- Class/cohort lists and seating charts
- Before/after school child care lists
- Transportation lists & seating charts
- Current contact info for students/staff
- Special assignments/programs/activities (e.g. Special Education)
- Records of essential visitors

Note: DRHD is responsible for conducting case and contact management activities and measures will be taken to ensure privacy and avoid disclosure of details to the school community that would lead to identification of a COVID -19 laboratory confirmed case.

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District boards and schools are required to post information to their websites if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 that involves a student or staff member in a school setting. In the interests of privacy, information provided to school communities will not identify the student or staff member that has received a positive COVID-19 test. DRHD will post outbreaks on their COVID-19 dashboard/website.

DRHD has provided school boards with information that can be used to communicate with their school community. The purpose of this communication would be to provide reassurance and guidance and would **not** provide specific information or identifying details.

Declaring an Outbreak

DRHD will be responsible for determining if an outbreak exists, declaring an outbreak, and providing direction on outbreak control measures to be implemented. DRHD will assist in determining which cohort(s) may be sent home, or if a partial, or full, school closure is required. DRHD will also determine when an outbreak can be declared over. (*refer to Outbreak flow chart*)

February 26, 2021

