

Wednesday December 2, 2020

Dear School Community,

This letter is to inform you that Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) has declared an outbreak of COVID-19 **at Clara Hughes Public School, limited between two staff**. For further information about COVID-19 outbreaks in schools please refer to the *Facts about COVID-19 Outbreak in Schools* attached.

We have dismissed the staff/students/essential visitors who were known to have been in close-contact with the people who were ill during their infectious period. This includes one class that is required to self-isolate. The outbreak declaration was based on a third individual testing positive at the school that was linked to one of the prior cases.

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

The ill individuals are at home isolating and will return to school when they have recovered.

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

- Posting outbreak signage at entrances and affected area.
- Informing outside agencies that use the school/daycare
- Only allowing essential visitors into the school.
- Further minimizing the movement of staff between cohorts.
- Limiting student activities to their required cohorts
- Restricting all staff (including school, transportation, staff from home care agencies or others that provide medical services to those in school) from working in other schools.
- Recommending to staff, students and their families that they restrict contact to their social bubble.

- Reinforce use of personal protective equipment including masking of students for source control based on requirements for their age, mask and eye protection for staff members, hand hygiene for all, and maintaining physical distancing of 2 metres, as much as possible.
- Review the daily symptom screening process for all staff/essential visitors and students and enhance if needed.
- Review of environmental cleaning and disinfection, and enhanced cleaning and disinfection for the outbreak area(s).

If your child becomes symptomatic please call Durham Health Connection Line 1-800-841-2729, immediately self-isolate and do not attend school.

Common COVID-19 symptoms include fever (temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), new or worsening cough and shortness of breath. Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include sore throat, difficulty swallowing, changes to sense of taste and/or smell, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and runny nose, or nasal congestion (not caused by seasonal allergies).

Atypical symptoms of COVID-19 should be considered, particularly in children, older persons, and people living with a developmental disability. Atypical symptoms can include unexplained fatigue, body aches, delirium, unexplained or increased number of falls, acute functional decline, exacerbation of chronic conditions, chills, headaches, croup, conjunctivitis, and multisystem inflammatory vasculitis in children. Symptoms of multisystem inflammatory vasculitis in children may include persistent fever, abdominal pain, conjunctivitis, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and rash.

For more information about COVID-19 please visit [www.durham.ca/novelcoronavirus](http://www.durham.ca/novelcoronavirus).

Sincerely,  
Sharon Knights  
Principal  
Clara Hughes P.S.