

Confirmed Case of COVID-19 at Clara Hughes P.S

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that the Durham Region Health Department has confirmed that five individuals at Clara Hughes PS have tested positive for COVID-19. These individuals are part of the class that is already self-isolating. **Following the investigation of the Durham Region Health Department, there are no further exposures of COVID-19 outside of this classroom and no other classes at the school are required to self-isolate.**

The identity of the individuals are protected by privacy legislation and will not be shared. The individuals who tested positive are already at home isolating, must follow instructions from public health and will only return to school when they have recovered.

We know that news of COVID-19 can create feelings of anxiousness, and we wanted to make sure that you had this information as soon as possible to help alleviate concerns. Upon notification of this case today, we immediately reached out to the Durham Region Health Department to determine next steps. We will continue to take direction from the Durham Region Health Department and will provide further updates to the school community, if they deem it necessary.

Staff and students at the school are being asked to continue to undertake the daily self assessment to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at the current time.

Signs and symptoms include: fever, new onset of cough, worsening chronic cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, sore throat, difficulty swallowing, decrease or loss of sense of taste or smell, chills, headaches, unexplained fatigue/muscle aches, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, pink eye (conjunctivitis), runny nose/nasal congestion without other known cause. For more information about COVID-19, please visit www.durham.ca/novelcoronavirus

If staff or students develop one or more symptoms, immediately self-isolate, follow up with your health care provider and/or call Durham Health Connection Line (DHCL) at 1-800-841-2729 and seek testing.

Clara Hughes P.S. has continued to undertake and complete enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices approved by the health department and will remain open. No further action has been recommended at this time.

The DDSB is committed to respectful, welcoming, inclusive and safe learning and working environments for all DDSB community members. We encourage community members to continue to treat each other with dignity and respect and to not treat individuals or groups differently because of biases, assumptions or stereotypes against anyone who has (or who is believed to have), tested positive, or who is awaiting test results.

Now more than ever, we must take care of ourselves and each other. We can do this by following the advice of public health agencies and government officials. To minimize the risk of COVID-19 in the school:

- Physically distance from others by keeping 2 metres away as much as possible.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Students should wear non-medical masks or face coverings as appropriate.
- Staff should wear personal protective equipment (e.g. medical masks) as directed by the school.
- Clean your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- After handling nose and throat secretions (e.g. after throwing out used facial tissues) wash your hands.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Do not share water bottles, eating utensils, toothbrushes, toys or anything else that has been in contact with saliva, nose or throat secretions.
- Schools are keeping common surfaces clean.
- Schools are disinfecting surfaces that are high-touch areas.
- Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.
- Within the school community, self screen daily before entering the school.

More information on COVID-19 and schools is available from the Durham Region Health Department online at www.durham.ca/schoolsreopening.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Knights
Principal
Clara Hughes P.S.