

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to inform you that the Durham Region Health Department has confirmed that an individual at Clara Hughes Early Learning and Child Care Centre has tested positive for COVID-19. The identity of the individual is protected by privacy legislation and will not be shared. A positive case at a Child Care Centre within a school does not necessarily mean the individual was exposed to COVID-19 at the Child Care Centre or school. They may have been exposed somewhere else in the community.

Although the Child Care Centre is operated separately from the school, 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, together with the Child Care Centre we immediately reached out to the Durham Region Health Department to inform them of the situation and determine next steps.

The Durham Region Health Department has advised that following their investigation, all children in the Child Care Centre are deemed low risk and are able to attend school and childcare. No further action has been recommended at this time and the Child Care Centre remains open for regular operations. It is encouraged that staff and students continue 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

We will continue to take direction from the Durham Region Health Department and will provide further updates to the school and childcare community.

Now more than ever, we must take care of each other and ourselves. 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 two 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 and Diane Kotsopoulos

Principal

Supervisor

Clara Hughes P.S.

Clara Hughes Early Learning and Childcare Center