



Family and Community Communication – Outbreak Notification

March 18, 2021

Good Afternoon Families,

This is John McDermid, Principal of Holy Cross School. I'm reaching out with an important message.

This afternoon, the Brant County Health Unit confirmed a two additional cases of COVID-19, declaring an outbreak in our school community. An outbreak in a school is defined as two or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students and/or staff in a school with an epidemiological link, within a 14-day period, where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school.

If the Health Unit identifies that at least one case associated with this outbreak has screened positive for a variant of concern (VOC) we will post that information, when it is shared with us, on the COVID-19 Reporting by Location webpage (<http://www.bhncdsb.ca/page/covid-19-reporting-location>).

Understandably, for privacy reasons, the identity of these individuals will not be disclosed. These individuals have been directed by the health unit to self-isolate.

Upon receiving this news, we immediately contacted the students and staff initially identified by public health as close contacts to the COVID-19 cases. Over the next 24 to 48 hours, the Brant County Health Unit will be in direct contact with these individuals, via email, as they work through their contact tracing. The health unit will provide further direction and next steps to these individuals.

If your family was not contacted by our staff today, you have not been identified as a close contact at this time. The Ministry of Health mandates public health units to be in contact with known close contacts within 24-48 hours of being made aware of them. The local public health unit may not be aware of all contacts at the time you receive this communication, as they require time to conduct the investigation with cases.

If further students or staff are impacted, the Brant County Health Unit will let us know as soon as possible.

Moving forward, all Holy Cross students and staff are asked to monitor their health. If symptoms consistent with COVID-19 develop, or you feel that you may have been exposed to COVID-19, please contact your primary health care provider as you may need to be tested.

Our school remains open to all individuals, not asked by Public Health to self-isolate. Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board custodians continue to complete their disinfecting of our school throughout the day and each evening.

Holy Cross will work with students and families to ensure learning continues for those who are self-isolating.

The individual who tested positive, as well as all close contacts as determined by Public Health, must complete their isolation period and be able to pass the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) before returning to school.

If you have any questions, please visit the [Brant County Health Unit Website COVID-19 information page](#) or you can reach out to us at the school.

Thank you.

John McDermid