

School Messenger Communication to St. John's College School Families

This is Principal Kathy Evans. I am reaching out with an important message. Today, December 8, 2020, the Brant County Health Unit declared a COVID-19 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.

Understandably, for privacy reasons, the identity of the individuals who tested positive will not be disclosed.

News of the second COVID-19 case in our school community came today. This individual's class has been directed by the health unit to self-isolate for a pre-determined amount of time. The **health unit is in the process of contacting students, staff and families who have been deemed close contacts to this COVID-19 case.** Anyone deemed a close contact will also be asked by the health unit to self-isolate.

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.

A close contact includes any students or staff in this individual's class, but may also include others. Students and staff will be identified through contact tracing as we provided the health unit with our class lists as well as information related to (if applicable) before-and-after school care, transportation and any other special assignments. **If you or your child IS NOT CONTACTED by the Brant County Health Unit, they HAVE NOT BEEN CONSIDERED a close contact.**

Moving forward, all St. John's College School 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, and BHNCD SB custodians have already disinfected impacted areas.

St. John's College School 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 \(https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/\)](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/) before returning to school.

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For more information about this communication contact:

Tracey Austin, Manager of Communications and Community Relations, 519-756-6505 Ext. 234, 519-732-5282, taustin@bhncdsb.ca