



# Family and Community Communication – Outbreak Notification and Temporary School Closure

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Good Evening St. Michael's Families and Staff,

This is Anna Fortunato, Principal of St. Michael's Dunnville School. I'm reaching out with an important message.

This evening, the Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit confirmed 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.*

Due to the number of active cases, including those individuals recently identified as close contacts, and to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and community members, in consultation with Public Health, St. Michael's Dunnville will be closed up to, and including **Friday, March 19, 2021**. Before and After School Child Programs and the onsite Child Care Centre are also closed. As of this time, the school is scheduled to re-open on **Monday, March 22, 2021**. BHNCD SB custodians will complete their disinfecting and deep cleaning of our school before students and staff return for in-class instruction.

During the closure (to in-person learning), students will continue their learning via Brightspace D2L. Over the next few days, educators will be in contact with students and families to share how learning will happen both asynchronous and synchronously, as well as support families with the continuity of learning.

Over the next 24 to 48 hours, the Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit will be in direct contact with individuals as they continue to work through their contact tracing. If your family was not contacted by an automated call today, you have not been identified as a close contact at this time. 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 Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit will let us know as soon as possible.

Moving forward, all St. Michael's 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.

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

Thank you.