

## School Messenger Communication to St. Stephen's Catholic Elementary School Families

This is Principal Mark Finocchio. I am reaching out with an important message. Today, the Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit confirmed a case of COVID-19 in our school community. Understandably, for privacy reasons, the identity of this individual will not be disclosed.

This individual has been directed by the health unit to self-isolate for 14 days. 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 for 14 days.

A close contact includes any students or staff in this individual's cohort 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 applicable Health Unit, they HAVE NOT BEEN CONSIDERED a close contact.**

Moving forward, all St. Stephen'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.

- 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. Stephen's 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:*

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