

December 22, 2021

NOTIFICATION: POSITIVE CASES OF COVID-19 IDENTIFIED AT SCHOOL

Positive case identified affecting students attending QMS December 16, 2021.

While this letter is written for parents and guardians of students, staff members and bus drivers at the school should also follow all directions provided to students below.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that multiple individuals at the school have tested positive for COVID-19. HPEPH and the school are taking all necessary steps to prevent further spread of the virus both in the school and the community. At this time, Public Health has not identified transmission within the school environment. Please note, individuals who are identified as high-risk contacts in the school /school bus setting will receive a letter from HPEPH. **If you have not received a letter advising that your child is a high-risk contact, your child has not been identified as a close contact at this time.** It is important to note that not all students will be affected by the positive cases.

What will Public Health do to respond to the positive cases?

- Public Health has contacted the individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and is working together with the school to respond to the situation.
- Public Health has issued a letter to all individuals who have been identified as high-risk contacts, which will provide further instruction about testing and isolation requirements.

What will the school do?

- The school is providing Public Health with contact information for individuals with whom the person was in contact while at school, including before and after school care, extracurriculars and on the bus, if applicable.
- The school is working with Public Health to review infection prevention and control measures to continue to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

What should you do?

- Since your child has **not** been identified as a high-risk contact, it is **not** necessary to have your student tested at this time if they do **not** have symptoms.
- Monitor your child for **ANY** symptoms of COVID-19. You can screen them daily using the [HPEPH School Screening Tool](https://hpePublicHealth.ca/school-screening), available at hpePublicHealth.ca/school-screening. **It is important that your child isolate and seek testing if they develop ANY symptoms – even if they are very mild (e.g. runny nose, sore throat, fatigue).**

| Symptoms listed on Provincial School Screener | HPEPH Additional Symptoms |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever (37.8°C/100°F) and/or chills • Cough or barking cough • Shortness of breath • Decrease or loss of taste or smell • Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea • Fatigue • Muscle aches and pain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sore throat • Difficulty swallowing • Runny or stuffy nose • Abdominal pain • Headache • Conjunctivitis (pink eye) • Decreased or lack of appetite |

- If your child shows ANY symptoms of COVID-19, immediately isolate them from others and go to an assessment centre for testing.
- If your child develops symptoms, please take them for testing.
- If you are contacted by Public Health, follow the guidance provided.
- **Please remain vigilant about monitoring your child for symptoms. They should not attend school if they have any symptoms of illness (even those not included on the school screening tool).**
- If your child is eligible, please get them vaccinated for COVID-19. Vaccination is safe, effective, and the best way to prevent serious illness related to the virus. For information about vaccination, visit hpePublicHealth.ca/covid-19-vaccines-youth.

What should you do if your child develops symptoms?

- If your child develops any symptoms of illness (even mild ones), they should isolate and seek testing for COVID-19.
- All household members who are not fully vaccinated (had 2 doses of a Health Canada approved vaccine with the second dose 14 or more days ago) must stay at home and not go out **even for essential reasons** while you wait for your child's test results.
- Fully vaccinated household contacts of symptomatic individuals are not required to isolate, unless they develop symptoms themselves or public health directs them to do so.
- If a negative result or alternate diagnosis is received, unvaccinated household contacts with **no symptoms** may resume regular activities, while continuing to follow all current public health measures.

For more information, please review

- **School and COVID-19** - hpePublicHealth.ca/back-to-school-planning-parents
- **Isolation requirements** - hpePublicHealth.ca/understanding-self-isolation
- **Testing options** - hpePublicHealth.ca/getting-tested-for-covid-19
- **Vaccination for kids and youth** - hpePublicHealth.ca/covid-19-vaccines-youth

Note: Personal health information may be provided to schools only for the purpose of contact tracing. Schools must protect the personal information of their students and staff. The name of the individual who tests positive for COVID-19 and their contacts will not be disclosed publicly.

Sincerely,
Hastings Prince Edward Public Health