

Notice of a COVID-19 Outbreak at School

Monday November 29, 2021

Dear Families,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that KFL&A Public Health has **declared an outbreak of COVID-19 at James R Henderson Public School**. As per provincial Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education guidance, an outbreak is declared in a school once it has been determined that two individuals have tested positive for COVID-19 with an epidemiological link (meaning these students/staff could have become infected with COVID-19 at school, either from each other or a common source), within a 14-day period. This could include transportation. Affected cohorts receive separate letters.

We recognize that receiving this information may be stressful and we want to ensure you understand the process going forward. KFL&A Public Health and the school are taking all necessary steps to prevent further spread of the virus both in the school and the community.

KFL&A Public Health is working with the school to identify cohorts of students and staff who are affected by the positive cases. Not all students will be affected by the outbreak.

What should you do?

- **Monitor for symptoms:**
 - Continue to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and screen all students daily as most cases of COVID-19 are acquired in the home setting. Go to covid19.ontario.ca/school-screening. **We are also asking you to use the extended symptom list included in this letter for monitoring symptoms.**
 - If **anyone** in your household including your student has or develops any symptoms of COVID-19 that are listed on the extended symptom list, they must self-isolate and **should book an appointment at an assessment centre for testing as soon as possible**. It is required that all household members that are NOT fully vaccinated* isolate until the person with symptoms receives a negative COVID-19 test result or an alternative diagnosis from a health care professional.
 - If no one in your household has symptoms and no one has been advised to isolate, everyone can continue to go to work, school, or childcare, if they pass the daily screening and do not have any symptoms on the extended symptom list.

Extended symptom list for ALL household members

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Fever (37.8°C/100°F) and/or chills | • Sore throat |
| • Cough or barking cough | • Difficulty swallowing |
| • Shortness of breath | • Runny or stuffy nose |
| • Decrease or loss of taste or smell | • Abdominal pain |
| • Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea | • Headache |
| • Fatigue | • Conjunctivitis (pink eye) |
| • Muscle aches and pain | • Decreased or lack of appetite |

What will KFL&A Public Health do?

- Public Health Nurses will contact individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and will be in contact with the school. **
- KFL&A Public Health will identify and contact all individuals (including students and staff) who had close contact with the person who tested positive. **
- KFL&A Public Health will provide direction to close contacts and the school to protect students and staff and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

What will the school do?

- Provide KFL&A Public Health with contact information for identified individuals.
- Clean and disinfect all areas in the school where the exposure may have occurred.
- Work with KFL&A Public Health to develop a plan to protect all students and staff and prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Reinforce public health measures with staff and students including masking, physical distancing, and symptom screening.
- Post outbreak signage at entrances and affected area(s).
- Inform outside agencies that use the school of the outbreak.
- Further restrict visitors to the school.
- Limit student activities to their required cohorts.

When can individuals who test positive for COVID-19 return to school?

- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 may return to school following specific guidance provided by KFL&A Public Health.

For more information go to the KFL&A Public Health website at kflaph.ca, where you will find fact sheets, and information on COVID-19 symptoms and screening, self-monitoring, self-isolation, and testing. On the website you can also find the COVID-19 dashboard which provides up to date information on COVID-19 in KFL&A.

Sincerely,

KFL&A Public Health

***Fully vaccinated** refers to individuals who have completed a full COVID-19 vaccine series more than 14 days ago.

****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.