

Student/Staff Tests Positive for COVID-19

Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) receives the positive test result and contacts the staff or student (or student's parent/guardian) to conduct case and contact management.

DRHD COVID-19 Lead or designate will contact School Board COVID-19 Lead to inform of positive case.

School Board COVID-19 Lead contacts school principal to inform that case and contact management has begun and information needs to be gathered and shared with DRHD.

DRHD case and contact management team in collaboration with school public health nurses (PHN) contacts the school administration to request required information.

Students/staff who test positive for COVID-19 will remain in isolation until three conditions have been met:

- 1) They have isolated for a minimum of 14 days after the onset of symptoms **AND**
- 2) They no longer have a fever **AND**
- 3) Their symptoms have been improving for at least 72 hours

Students or staff do not need clearance testing or medical notes to return to school.

DRHD will provide guidance and conduct daily follow-up with the case and contacts of a positive case.

Working with the school PHN, school administrator provides contact information to DRHD for student/staff who tested positive for COVID-19 (**within 24 hours of request**)

DRHD will:

- 1) Perform risk assessment of contacts (cohorts) of positive person and will advise all contacts of need for self-isolation or self-monitoring.
- 2) Support school/school board with parent communication
- 3) Determine if an outbreak will be declared and when the outbreak is over
- 4) Organize/facilitate testing

School distributes communications to parents, guardians, and staff and implements infection prevention and control measures

*Information needed may include:

- Attendance records
- Class/cohort lists and seating charts
- Before/after school child care lists
- Transportation lists & seating charts
- Current contact info for students/staff
- Special assignments/programs/activities (e.g. Special Education)
- Records of essential visitors

**Only need information from the previous 48 hours*

Note: DRHD is responsible for conducting case and contact management activities and measures will be taken to ensure privacy and avoid disclosure of details to the school community that would lead to identification of a COVID -19 laboratory confirmed case.

School Administrator Responsibilities

If a school or DRHD are made aware of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis for staff or students, it is essential that the school administrator prepare key information pertaining to staff and students quickly for the purposes of contact tracing. This information needs to be accessible by school administrators on short notice, both during and outside of school hours.

Please prepare to have the following information* available:

- attendance records for the specific dates that LPHU requests
- class lists and seating charts for every class
- names, DOB, and address for each student
- up-to-date contact information for the parent/guardian of each student, and for staff
- name and contact info for any staff/outside visitors who are not on the class list, that interacted with the class on the dates provided (e.g. Rotary teachers, service providers)
- before-and-after program child care lists
- transportation lists and seating charts (regular and after-school program bussing)
- special assignments and programs
- records of essential visitors

**Only need information from the previous 48 hours*

Public Health Responsibilities

DRHD will be responsible for conducting case and contact management activities. Measures will be taken to ensure privacy and avoid disclosure of details to the school community that would lead to the identification of a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case.

District boards and schools are required to post information to their websites if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 that involves a student or staff member in a school setting. In the interests of privacy, information provided to school communities will not identify the student or staff member that has received a positive COVID-19 test. DRHD will post outbreaks on their COVID-19 dashboard/website.

DRHD has provided school boards with information that can be used to communicate with their school community. The purpose of this communication would be to provide reassurance and guidance and would **not** provide specific information or identifying details.

Declaring an Outbreak

DRHD will be responsible for determining if an outbreak exists, declaring an outbreak, and providing direction on outbreak control measures to be implemented. DRHD will assist in determining which cohort(s) may be sent home, or if a partial, or full, school closure is required. DRHD will also determine when an outbreak can be declared over. (*refer to Outbreak flow chart*)

Version 1 – September 17/20

