

October 26, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Staff:

Subject: COVID-19 Outbreak Declared at École Ste-Marie.

This letter is to inform you that Public Health Sudbury & Districts has declared a COVID-19 outbreak at **École Ste-Marie**.

The individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 are currently self-isolating and being monitored by Public Health Sudbury & Districts.

What is a COVID-19 outbreak in a school?

An outbreak in a school is defined as **two** or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students or staff (or other visitors) in a school where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school.

Examples of reasonably having acquired infection in school include:

- No obvious source of infection outside of the school setting; **OR**
- Known exposure in the school setting.

What does this mean for me (staff, student) or my child/student?

Specific instructions regarding requirements for self-isolation and COVID-19 testing have already been provided directly to parents and guardians of children/students and/or students and staff affected by this outbreak.

Everyone else is encouraged to continue to follow the general COVID-19 prevention measures outlined in this letter.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and if you have not been identified as part of a dismissed cohort, you (staff, student) or your child must still self-isolate and get tested immediately regardless of your COVID vaccination status.

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Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

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St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
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Espanola

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Unit / Unité 100 C
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Île Manitoulin Island

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toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca

As a reminder, please continue to monitor for symptom of illness and do not go to school if you (staff, student) or your child are ill.

Can I (staff, student) or my child/student attend school during a COVID-19 outbreak?

Your school will notify you if you or your child's/student's classroom or school will be closed. Individuals who are identified to date as high-risk close contacts have already been notified by Public Health with further instructions regarding self-isolation and testing, as appropriate. If any other contacts are identified, these individuals also will be notified by Public Health.

Public Health Sudbury & District continues to investigate the situation and may advise of additional measures. Please continue to check the school or school board website for updated information.

How is COVID-19 managed in a school?

Your school is working closely with Public Health Sudbury & Districts to ensure that measures are in place to protect the school community. Depending on the assessment conducted by Public Health, there may be dismissals ranging from a single classroom up to a full school. It is anticipated that the likelihood of whole school dismissal will be exceptionally low in schools with high immunization coverage among students. A whole school dismissal may be considered if there is evidence suggestive of widespread or very rapid transmission of COVID-19 at school.

Additional measures during an outbreak may include (but are not limited to):

- Outbreak signage at entrances and affected area.
- An assessment by Public Health of infection prevention and control measures.
- Informing outside agencies that use the school of the outbreak.
- Only allowing essential visitors into the school.
- Further minimizing the movement of staff between cohorts.
- Limiting student activities to their required cohorts and if applicable discontinuing extra-curricular activities, as much as possible.
- Restricting all staff from working in other schools.
- Considering additional measures for immunized and previously positive high-risk contacts who are not dismissed, such as restricting mixing between cohorts.

It is important to continue to follow COVID-19 prevention measures:

- Use the *COVID-19 School and Childcare Screening Tool* (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>) to monitor for symptoms and follow the direction provided.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay home, isolate, and seek testing (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread>) if symptoms appear.
- Practise two-metre physical distancing.
- Wear a mask in indoor public spaces and outdoors, especially when physical distancing of two metres cannot be maintained.
- Get vaccinated. Protect yourself and those around you by getting vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccines available in Canada are safe and effective against all current variants. For information on how to obtain vaccination for COVID-19, visit our [COVID-19 vaccination webpage](#).

Where can I get more information?

- Frequently asked questions can be found attached and on Public Health's website: www.phsd.ca/health-topics-programs/diseases-infections/coronavirus/schools/.
- If you have any questions, please contact your school, visit the school website to learn about class restrictions or other measures the school is taking, or call Public Health Sudbury & Districts for more information at 705.522.9200 ext. 524 (toll free at 1.866.522.9200).
- Public Health returns all calls, but during periods of high call volumes, it may take a few days to return your call. We appreciate your patience.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts
705.522.9200
1.866.522.9200
phsd.ca