

April 8, 2021

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Near North District School Board (NNDSB) has been informed of a positive COVID-19 case involving a member of Silver Birches Elementary School's community.

All close contacts have already been notified by the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. A thorough investigation by the health unit and NNDSB has determined the individual was at school during their infectious period. As per standard protocol, the health unit has dismissed the affected cohort. In consultation with the health unit, the decision has been made to keep the school open, as the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to staff and students is very low at this time.

NNDSB works closely with the health unit to provide information about staff and students for contact tracing (e.g. attendance records, class lists, contact information for parents, etc.).

All students and staff who are not directly contacted by the health unit have been determined to have had a low-risk exposure to the case of COVID-19. A low-risk exposure includes transient interactions such as walking by a person with COVID-19, or briefly being in the same room with a person who has COVID-19. In these situations, the likelihood of transmission of COVID-19 is very low; however self-monitoring for symptoms is recommended. Self-isolation and testing are not recommended for low-risk exposures.

Custodial staff have conducted an [enhanced cleaning](#) of the school, ensuring all staff and student areas were thoroughly disinfected.

Please note that NNDSB and the health unit are prohibited from sharing any details with the public that may identify individuals in accordance with the Personal Health Information Protection Act.

It is important that you monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. The main symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever; cough; loss of taste and smell; or shortness of breath. However, COVID-19 can present with other symptoms such as those similar to a common cold or common stomach illness. A full list of symptoms is available [here](#).

The [self-assessment tool](#) can be used to help determine if symptoms are consistent with COVID-19.

If symptoms of COVID-19 are present, it is important to immediately self-isolate and seek out a COVID-19 assessment and testing centre. When calling for an appointment at your local COVID-19 assessment centre, please inform the staff that there has been an exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case and COVID-19 symptoms are present. If severe symptoms are present, such as difficulty breathing, please call 911 or attend the emergency department for immediate attention.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit at 1-800-563-2808.

NNDSB wishes the affected member a safe and speedy recovery.

Thank you,
Near North District School Board