

Notice of a Positive COVID-19 Case at ESS

Transition to virtual learning for all students

Families asked to pick up students immediately

September 23, 2021

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that KFL&A Public Health has been notified that a **staff member at Ernestown Secondary School has tested positive for COVID-19**. Please note that if you are receiving this letter only, this individual was **NOT** identified in your student's classroom/cohort. Those in the affected cohort(s) have been notified and given specific guidance.

Given the scope of potential high-risk contacts related to this case, the school will transition to virtual learning for the remainder of Sept. 23 and Sept. 24, 2021. All families are being asked to pick up their students as soon as possible from the main entrance at the school. Staff will remain on site until all students are safely picked up. Families will receive more information from their students' classroom teachers or school administration regarding virtual learning. Families should carefully read the directions in this letter. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work through this situation.

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 may be at risk of COVID-19 from this exposure. Not all students will be affected by this situation.

What should you do?

- 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
- It is **not** necessary to have students tested at this time if they do **not** have symptoms of COVID-19. **Testing now may lead to unnecessary or repeat testing.**
- If **anyone** in your household has or develops symptoms of COVID-19, 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 immunized* 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 house has symptoms and no one has been advised to isolate, everyone can continue to go to work, school, or child care, if they pass the daily screening.
- If you receive an additional letter or are contacted by KFL&A Public Health, follow the guidance provided.

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?

- The school will provide KFL&A Public Health with contact information for identified individuals.
- The school will clean and disinfect all areas in the school where the exposure may have occurred.
- The school will work with KFL&A Public Health to develop a plan to protect all students and staff and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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, testing, and vaccination. On the website you can also find the COVID-19 dashboard which provides up to date information on COVID-19 in KFL&A.

Thank you for your patience as we investigate cases to minimize risk to the school and community.

Sincerely,

KFL&A Public Health

How to get tested for COVID-19 in KFL&A:

- Visit kflaph.ca/Assessment for information on locations, hours of operation, and how to book online, or
- Call 613-548-2376 for the Kingston Assessment Centre (located at Beechgrove Complex – 51 Heakes Lane), or
- Call 613-354-8254 for the Napanee Assessment Centre (located at LACGH Westdale Campus – 12 Richmond Park Dr).

***Not fully immunized** refers to individuals who have not received any doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, have received the first dose of a vaccine that requires 2 doses, or have completed their vaccine series within the last 14 days.

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

****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.**