

December 20, 2021

Dear St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Parents and Guardians:

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Health Unit) has advised us that two individuals from the St. Joseph-Scollard Hall School community have tested positive for COVID-19. As per standard protocol, the Health Unit has dismissed the affected classes and those on the affected bus routes. All high-risk contacts have been communicated with and have been advised to self-isolate away from others immediately. The Health Unit is currently investigating to determine if an outbreak will be declared.

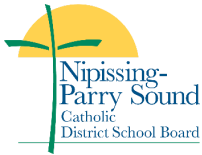
At this time, **St. Joseph-Scollard Hall School remains open for in-person learning.**

The Health Unit worked closely with the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board to conduct contact tracing:

- **Students and staff who were considered a “high-risk” contact have received further directions from Public Health Officials.** All high-risk contacts immediately self-isolated, regardless of vaccination status, while they awaited further direction and were advised to arrange for a COVID-19 test as soon as possible.
- **All students and staff who were not contacted by Public Health Officials are considered to have had a low-risk exposure to the person who tested positive for COVID-19.** All students and staff who were not directly contacted by the Health Unit were determined to be a low-risk contact. 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.

If you would like to speak to a public health nurse about your risk for COVID-19, you can call the Health Unit at 1-844-478-1400.

We continue to follow all enhanced health and safety protocols inclusive of daily self-screening, strict student cohorting, masking requirements, physical distancing and enhanced hand hygiene. Regular, enhanced cleaning measures continue to be in place and include disinfecting and thoroughly cleaning all areas students and staff are in contact with. In addition, ventilation systems have been modified to increase the amount of incoming fresh air and have been programmed to operate longer hours to ensure occupied spaces have full air exchanges before, during, and after class time. Stand-alone HEPA filtration units have also been provided in all occupied areas where mechanical ventilation is not available.



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If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has it, first self-isolate and then use [Ontario's Self-Assessment Tool](#) to see if you need to seek further care. If you need further assistance, call your healthcare provider or the Health Unit at **1-844-478-1400**. If you have severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, you should call 911 and mention your symptoms.

Please note that the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board 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.

We thank all of our parents in advance for your continued support of the [school and child care screening](#) tool and of the importance you place on daily self-screening. Please continue to monitor your email and Edsby accounts for any additional information that may become available.

We wish those affected a safe and speedy recovery.

Thank you.

Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board