

October 13, 2020

Subject Line: Confirmed Case of COVID-19 at Pine Ridge Secondary School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that the Durham Region Health Department has confirmed that an individual at Pine Ridge Secondary School, last in the building on October 7, 2020 has tested positive for COVID-19.

We know that news of COVID-19 can create feelings of anxiousness, and we wanted to make sure that you had this information as soon as possible to help alleviate concerns. Upon notification of these cases today, we immediately reached out to the Durham Region Health Department to inform them of the situation and determine next steps.

The Durham Region Health Department has conducted an investigation and indicated the individual was not infectious at school. This is due to the time between when the individual was last at school, when they tested positive and then developed symptoms. They have advised that no contact tracing is required in the school and that there is no risk to the school community.

The identity of the individual is protected by privacy legislation and will not be shared. A positive case at school does not necessarily mean the individual was exposed to COVID-19 at the school. They may have been exposed somewhere else in the community.

The individual who tested positive is at home isolating, must follow instructions from public health and will return to school when they have recovered.

Pine Ridge Secondary School is continuing to undertake enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices approved by the Durham Region Health Department and will remain open. No further action has been recommended at this time. Again, we would like to highlight that the Durham Region Health Department has indicated that **there is no risk to the school community** in this specific case.

Now more than ever, we must continue to take care of ourselves and each other to stay safe. We can do this by following the advice of public health agencies and government officials. To minimize the risk of COVID-19 in the school:

- Physically distance from others by keeping 2 metres away as much as possible.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Students should wear non-medical masks or face coverings as appropriate.

- Staff should wear personal protective equipment (e.g. medical masks) as directed by the school.
- Clean your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- After handling nose and throat secretions (e.g. after throwing out used facial tissues) wash your hands.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Do not share water bottles, eating utensils, toothbrushes, toys or anything else that has been in contact with saliva, nose or throat secretions.
- Schools are keeping common surfaces clean.
- Schools are disinfecting surfaces that are high-touch areas.
- Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.
- Within the school community, self screen daily before entering the school.

More information on COVID-19 and schools is available from the Durham Region Health Department online at www.durham.ca/schoolsreopening.

Yours sincerely,

Best regards,

Jackie Leacock
Principal
Pine Ridge Secondary School