

March 7, 2021

RE: WALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOL CLOSED TO AND INCLUDING MARCH 12

Dear Parents/Guardians:

All classes for in-person learners at Walden Public School will be delivered remotely to and including Friday, March 12, 2021. We will review the situation for the following week.

Rainbow District School Board is currently assessing the impact of another confirmed case of COVID-19 at the school. This case is being considered as a possible variant of concern.

There have been three confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Walden Public School in the past week. The individuals are self-isolating and being monitored by Public Health Sudbury & Districts.

While there is no evidence of widespread transmission of COVID-19 at Walden Public School at this time, variants of concern are highly contagious.

All teachers and support staff will work with students online this week. Any students who require technology are asked to contact the Principal.

As a result of the confirmed case reported by Public Health Sudbury & Districts today, the Grade 1 French Immersion Class in Room 120 is required to self-isolate to and including March 18, 2021.

The Kindergarten French Immersion Class in Room 134 and the Grade 3 English Class in Room 204 are required to self-isolate to and including March 17, 2021.

The affected students, their parents/guardians and relevant staff have been notified and have received a letter from Public Health with specific guidance. Public Health will directly contact all parents/guardians of students and all school personnel who have been identified as **close contacts**.

For students and staff who have not been asked to self-isolate as part of this confirmed case, the following applies:

- Simply passing by an infected person in the hallway is not considered close contact, and the risk of spreading the virus this way is extremely low.
- Remember to screen for COVID-19 daily. Continue to use the **COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care** <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> to monitor for symptoms and follow the direction provided. **Please note that there are UPDATED isolation requirements.**



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Remember to follow the critical ongoing COVID-19 prevention measures:

- 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 and [isolate](#) if symptoms appear.
- Practise two-metre physical distancing.
- Wear a mask in indoor public spaces and outdoors, especially when physical distancing of two meters cannot be maintained.

We continue to work closely with Public Health as we implement ongoing health and safety protocols to limit the spread of COVID-19.

As always, we will monitor our school population closely for any signs of COVID-19, remain vigilant, and follow the guidance from Public Health.

Public Health continues to investigate the situation and if any risks to the school community are identified, they may direct additional measures.

Updated information will be posted on the Board's COVID-19 Advisory Section at the following link: <https://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/covid-19/covid-19-advisory/>

As noted, Public Health Sudbury & Districts will directly contact all parents of students and staff who have been identified as **close contacts**.

If you have any questions regarding COVID-19 or the measures taken to address COVID-19, please visit www.phsd.ca/COVID-19 or contact Public Health Sudbury & Districts at 705.522.9200 ext. 524.

Thank you for working together to keep everyone safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norm Blaseg", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Norm Blaseg
Director of Education