

October 26, 2020

**RE: COVID-19 OUTBREAK AT LO-ELLEN PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL REMAINS OPEN FOR IN PERSON LEARNING**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Public Health Sudbury & Districts advised Rainbow District School Board late Sunday evening that a third individual from Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School has tested positive for COVID-19.

A fifth class has been asked to self-isolate to and including November 5, 2020. These students, their parents/guardians and relevant staff have been notified by the school. In addition, the isolation period for a previous class has been extended to this date.

According to the Province of Ontario Operational guidance: COVID-19 management in schools, an outbreak in a school is defined as two or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students and/or staff in a school with an epidemiological link, within a 14-day period, where **at least one case** could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school.

As a result of this third case, an outbreak has been declared at the school. However, Public Health has indicated that there is no evidence of widespread transmission at the school at this time. For this reason, Lo-Ellen Park remains open for in person learning.

Public Health will directly contact all parents/guardians of students and all school personnel who have been identified as **close contacts**.

If you are not called by Public Health Sudbury & Districts, please continue to follow the general advice in this letter.

If your child is **not directed to self-isolate** from school as part of this 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.
- Continue to use the [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/) <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> to monitor your child for symptoms and follow the direction provided.

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.



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- 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, including enhanced cleaning and disinfecting.

We remind parents/guardians to screen their children daily for symptoms of COVID-19. Please refer to the school screening tool on the board website – rainbowschools.ca. Anyone who is sick must stay home.

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 more 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-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** (toll-free 1.866.522.9200).

Thank you for following health and safety protocols.

Thank you for working together to keep everyone safe.

The health and safety of our students and staff remains our first and foremost priority.

Sincerely,

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

Norm Blaseg
Director of Education