

December 5, 2021

RE: PUBLIC HEALTH DECLARES OUTBREAK AT WALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Public Health Sudbury & Districts has declared a COVID-19 outbreak at Walden Public School. Two more confirmed cases have been reported in the Grade 5/6 class in Room 206 which has already been dismissed.

An outbreak in a school is defined as **two** or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students or staff (or other visitors) in a school where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school.

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

Walden Public School remains open for in-person learning.

The school will follow up with affected students to ensure continuity of learning.

You can access letters related to the school on the Board's COVID-19 Advisory Section: <https://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/covid-19/covid-19-advisory-2021-2022/>

For students and staff who have not been asked to self-isolate as part of this outbreak, 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. **Stay home and seek testing at the first sign of a COVID-19 symptom, even a mild one.**

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** at all times in indoor public spaces.



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When outdoors, students are encouraged to maintain physical distancing.

Students will be required to wear a mask outdoors at all times.

Please send extra masks to school, in case they get wet during nutrition breaks.

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

We will monitor our school population closely for any signs of COVID-19 and follow the guidance from Public Health.

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 blue ink that reads "B. Bourget".

Bruce Bourget
Director of Education