

Public Health Notice to School Community
Confirmed Case of COVID-19 at Joseph Howe Elementary School

April 25, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian/Staff,

Public Health is investigating a confirmed case of COVID-19. The person who tested positive is connected with **Joseph Howe Elementary School**.

We recognize that receiving this information may be stressful and want to ensure you understand the process going forward.

Through our investigation, Public Health will:

- identify anyone who has come into close contact with the case
- send a letter to all close contacts as soon as possible
- follow-up with the close contacts directly and arrange further sequential testing

If you do not receive a separate letter and phone call, your child is NOT a close contact.

However, out of an abundance of caution, Public Health is recommending that all students and staff be tested for COVID-19, whether or not you have symptoms. Please visit <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/en> to book a COVID-19 test or call 811 and identify yourself as someone Public Health asked to be tested from Joseph Howe Elementary School.

As this is a precautionary measure, you are not required to self-isolate while waiting for your test result, unless you have any symptoms. If you have or develop any symptoms you must self-isolate while waiting for your test result. Symptoms include fever, new or worsening cough, sore throat, runny nose/nasal congestion, headache, or shortness of breath.

All parents/guardians/staff are asked to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. The daily checklist is available at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>

If you, your child or anyone in your household has or develops:

- fever
- cough (new or worsening)
- sore throat
- runny nose
- headache
- shortness of breath

Complete a COVID-19 self-assessment online by visiting <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/en> or call 811.

You can find more information about COVID-19, self-isolation, proper hand-hygiene, mask use and other ways to keep yourself safe at novascotia.ca/coronavirus.

We are working closely with Halifax Regional Centre for Education and the school to make sure necessary measures are in place to protect students and staff. Your school will provide more details on the steps they are taking to limit the exposure.

Thank you,

Public Health, Nova Scotia Health