

Dear Zion families,

We are currently short-staffed in the office but we are trying to respond to all parent emails as quickly as possible. We have been in contact with Toronto Public Health and are currently taking direction from Toronto Public Health for next steps.

Here is more information as provided by Toronto Public Health:



COVID-19 SCHOOL PROTOCOL

What parents need to know when someone tests positive for COVID-19 in their child's school or class cohort (designated group).



NOTIFICATION

Parents will be notified by Toronto Public Health if there is a positive case in the school. The identity of the person who tested positive for COVID-19 will not be shared as this is personal health information. It is important to remember that not all students are at-risk if there is a positive case in the school. The main concern is for close contacts of the person who has COVID-19.



CONTACT TRACING

Toronto Public Health will follow up with the person who tested positive to find out where they may have gotten the infection, and who they may have exposed to the virus. We will work with the school, to find out who they were in contact with at the school while they were contagious. When a person with COVID-19 is first identified, all students in the same class cohort will likely be told to self-isolate at home. This may change as Toronto Public Health finds out more information through the investigation.

If the source of the infection was outside of the school, and the person was not contagious while they were at school, then the class cohort will not need to self-isolate.



SELF-MONITORING AND SELF-ISOLATION

If someone was contagious while at school, all students who are identified by Toronto Public Health as close contacts of that person will be instructed to:

- Stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.
- Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Get tested if symptoms develop or as directed by Toronto Public Health.

As Toronto Public Health completes the investigation, if it is determined that students or staff did not have close contact with the person who had COVID-19, they will be allowed to return the classroom.

Other students in the school should also monitor for symptoms if there is a positive case in a school. But if they have not been told by Toronto Public Health that they are a close contact, they do not need to self-isolate.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

IF SOMEONE AT SCHOOL TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19



Parents will be notified but the person's identity will not be shared.



Not all students are at-risk if there is a positive case at school.



Public Health will follow up with close contacts, likely including the class cohort.



Close contacts will self-isolate for 14 days, monitor for symptoms & get tested.



Other people at school will monitor for symptoms but don't have to self-isolate.



Public Health will continue to monitor & notify parents/staff of risk as needed.

TORONTO.CA/COVID19

 **TORONTO** Public Health



If you have more questions:

We encourage schools to check toronto.ca/COVID19SchoolInfo as new information is posted regularly.

Schools and parents/caregivers can also call us at **416-338-7600** if you have any COVID-19 questions.

Thank you for your patience and understanding,

Zion Heights Middle School