



HOLY NAME CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING



Welcome Holy Name Catholic Elementary School Families

Virtual Town Hall Meeting
with York Catholic District School Board
and York Region Public Health



Agenda



1. Introductions
2. Welcome by Catholic School Trustee Elizabeth Crowe
3. Presentation from York Region Public Health (YRPH)
 1. COVID-19 Overview
 2. Status Update Regarding Holy Name CES
 3. Review Screening Tool
 4. York Region Public Health Investigation Process
 5. Communications Process to Notify Families of a Positive COVID-19 Case
4. Presentation from the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB)
5. Questions & Answers – YRPH and YCDSB
6. Next Steps



Introductions



York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB)

- Elizabeth Crowe, School Trustee
- Mary Battista, Interim Director of Education
- Nancy Di Nardo, Associate Director
- Marianne Fedrigoni, Superintendent of Education
- Loretta Barone, Principal, Holy Name CES
- Tanya Perna Crocitto, Vice Principal, Holy Name CES
- Mariann Gordon, Manager of Marketing & Communications
- Cathy Marra, Employee Health & Safety Specialist
- Veronica Pang, Communications Officer



Introductions



York Region Public Health (YRPH)

- Dr. Fareen Karachiwalla, Associate Medical Officer of Health
- Charlene Gunn-Hagerman, Manager of School Health
- Selina Nazim, Manager, Infection Prevention and Control
- Andrea Main, Manager, Control of Infectious Diseases



Welcome



Greetings from Trustee Elizabeth Crowe





York Region Public Health Presentation

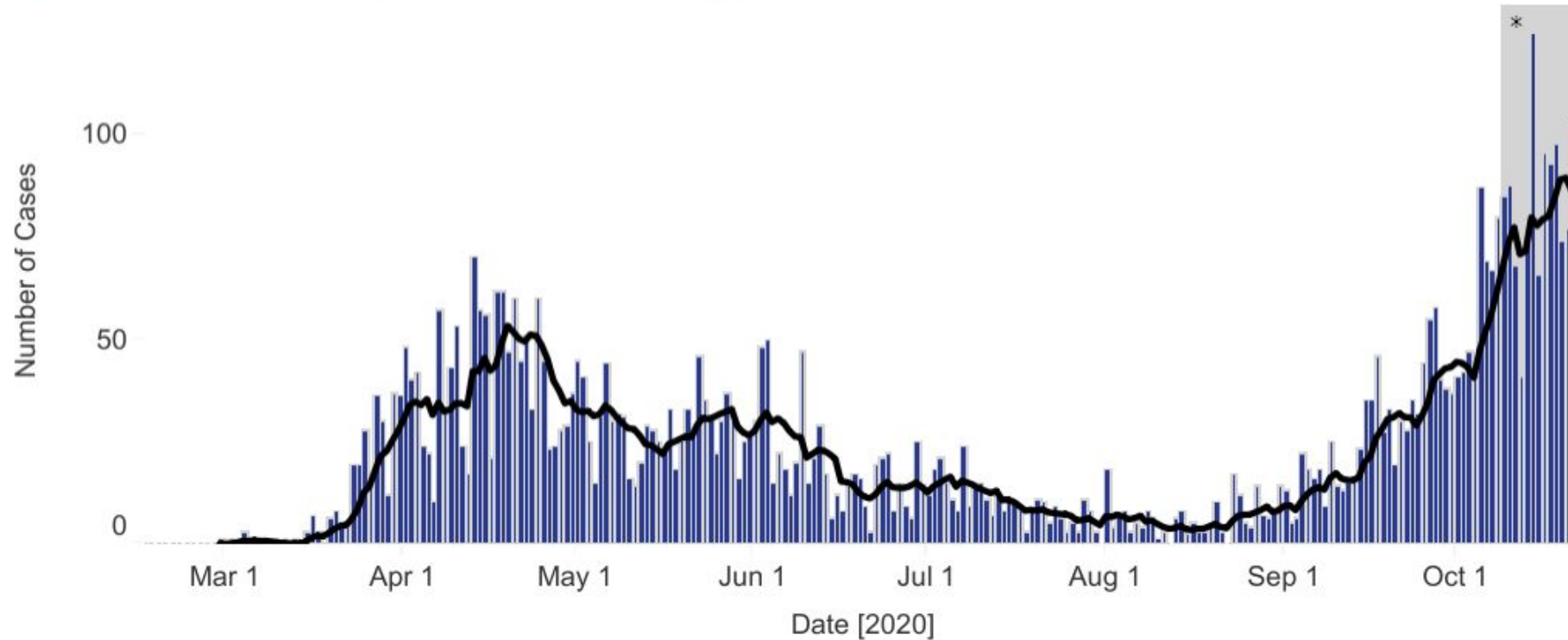




York Region Public Health COVID-19 Overview



Epidemic Curve: Daily Cases in York Region



Source: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Epidemiologic summary: COVID-19 in Ontario: School Outbreaks and Cases – August 30, 2020 to October 12, 2020. Toronto, ON: Queen’s Printer for Ontario; 2020.



York Region Public Health COVID-19 Overview



COVID-19 in Ontario: School Outbreaks and Cases August 30, 2020 to October 12, 2020:

- A total of 60,692 confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Ontario to date. **School-aged children accounted for 2.9% (1,748) of all cases.**
- Since August 30, 2020, there have been 49 school-associated outbreaks in twelve public health units; the number of cases associated with each outbreak ranged from 1 to 12. Currently, there are 33 ongoing school outbreaks.
- Elementary schools account for 75.5% (37/49) of school-associated outbreaks.

Source: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Epidemiologic summary: COVID-19 in Ontario: School Outbreaks and Cases – August 30, 2020 to October 12, 2020. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020.



York Region Public Health School and Childcare Interactive Dashboard



Summary | School and Child Care List | School and Child Care Lookup

Select Municipality: York Region | Filter School/Child Care Type: All Schools and Child Care Settings

Best available data as of 5:00 pm on 10/21/2020

Schools in COVID-19 Outbreak

An outbreak is declared in schools with two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period, with at least one case which could have been acquired in the schools.

Open COVID-19 School Outbreaks 3

Closed COVID-19 School Outbreaks 1

Schools Under Surveillance

Schools with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case among staff, students or visitors, where there is currently no evidence of transmission within the school.

Case totals may include students or staff who reside outside of York Region, therefore the totals in this list may not match case reporting based on place of residence. One laboratory-confirmed case can be associated with multiple schools.

Schools Under Surveillance 41

Schools No Longer Under Surveillance 25

The Interactive Dashboard can be accessed at: www.york.ca/covid19





York Region Public Health COVID-19 in Children



- Children, especially those below 10 years of age, appear to experience less severe symptoms due to COVID-19 and form a small proportion of reported cases to date
- It is important to consider that transmission of COVID-19 in children is not fully understood and that evidence may change with time
- In most household cluster investigations, children were not the index case; however, emerging evidence suggests that the virus can spread efficiently in all age groups
- While children over 10 years may be as likely as adults to transmit the virus to others, those under 10 years may also transmit the virus, but are less likely to do so than adults

Source:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/guidance-schools-childcare-programs.html>



York Region Public Health Public Health Precautions



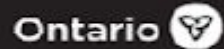
- We abide by the Ministry Outbreak Guidelines
- Recommendations for the Appropriate use of PPE
- Preparedness IPAC visits
- Onsite IPAC visit when there is a case in the school



York Region Public Health Review of Screening Tool



Ministry of Health | Ministry of Education



COVID-19 Screening tool for students and children in school and child care

Version 3: October 5, 2020

Students and children must screen for COVID-19 every day before going to school or child care.
Parents/guardians can fill this out on behalf of a child.

Date (mm-dd-yyyy) _____

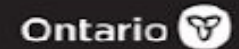
Screening Questions (place an "X" in the appropriate column)

1. Are they currently experiencing any of these symptoms?

Choose any/all that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or medical conditions.

Fever and/or chills Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Cough or barking cough (croup) Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing, not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, asthma, post-infectious reactive airways)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Shortness of breath Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, asthma)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Decrease or loss of smell or taste Not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, allergies, neurological disorders)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Ministry of Health | Ministry of Education



COVID-19 Screening tool for employees and essential visitors in schools and child care settings

Version 3: October 5, 2020

Date (mm-dd-yyyy) _____

Screening Questions (place an "X" in the appropriate column)

1. Are you currently experiencing any of these symptoms? Choose any/all that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or medical conditions.

Fever and/or chills Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Cough or barking cough (croup) Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing, not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, asthma, post-infectious reactive airways)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Shortness of breath Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, asthma)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sore throat Not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, seasonal allergies, acid reflux)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Difficulty swallowing Painful swallowing, not related to other known causes or conditions	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Runny or stuffy/congested nose	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>



York Region Public Health Investigation Process



- In depth case investigation of a student, staff or essential visitor to the school to determine if they attended school while infectious
- Identify close contacts of the case both in the school and outside of the school in the community
- In the school setting close contacts are likely to be:
 - Students and teacher(s) in the same cohort or on the same bus
 - Any school staff that interacted with the case's cohort while the case was infectious
 - Siblings of the case in different grades
 - Other contacts may also be investigated, such as household contacts, or any other crowded gathering the case may have visited while infectious



York Region Public Health Investigation Process



The public health investigation may also include collecting:

- Did the case ride the bus?
- Did the case attend before and/or after school care at the school?
- What personal protective equipment (PPE) or masks were worn by the case, students, and staff while the case was infectious?
- Where did the case acquire the infection? Any known sources outside of the school?
- Does the case have confirmed close contact with a case in their household
- Does the case attend any extracurricular activities

York Region Public Health

Who is a Close Contact at School?

WHO IS A CLOSE CONTACT AT SCHOOL?

CLOSE CONTACT	NOT CLOSE CONTACT
 <p>Someone you were within 2-metres for more than 10 minutes</p>	 <p>A person you maintained a proper physical distance of at least 2-metres</p>
<p>Someone in your class, on your school bus or in your before/after school cohort</p> 	<p>Someone who goes to the same school, but is not in your cohort</p> 
 <p>Someone you had close physical contact with, like high-fiving or hugging</p>	 <p>Someone you were briefly in the same room with and kept a proper physical distance</p>
<p>A person who accidentally sneezed, or coughed on you while talking in close proximity</p> 	<p>A person you passed quickly in the hall, or at recess</p> 





York Region Public Health

Siblings and Household Contacts



- Siblings and other Household contacts of a positive case need to isolate for 14 days
- When a student is sent home with a letter advising them to self isolate after exposure to a case of COVID-19, they are considered a close contact of the case.
- Household contacts and siblings of **the contact**, can continue to go to school or work.
- If the contact becomes symptomatic, household members must self isolate while the contact (student or staff) seeks assessment and testing.



York Region Public Health Status Update regarding Holy Name CES



Case #	Acquisition
1	Household
2	Unknown
3	School
4	School
5	School
6	Household
7	Unknown
8	Household
9	Household
10	Household

- To date: 10 cases
 - School acquisition: 3 cases
 - Household acquisition: 5 cases
 - Unknown source of acquisition (i.e. community): 2 cases
- First case reported to YRPH: Sept. 28
- Second case reported to YRPH: Oct. 8
- Most recent case reported to YRPH: Oct. 16
- School closure decision: Oct. 13
- Re-opening date: Oct. 26



York Region Public Health Communications Process to Notify Families of a Positive COVID-19 Case



- York Region Public Health follows Ministry of Ontario Guidelines and notifies parents of students when an exposure of COVID-19 takes place in the school. All parents in the school community receive a letter.
- Through an in-depth case investigation public health will determine which cohorts are affected including or if the student rode the bus or attended before and after care and those cohorts are sent home.
- When notifying families in the school community, York Region Public Health is committed to maintaining the privacy of the affected individuals and families in accordance with the Personal Health Information Protection Act.



York Region Public Health Communications Process to Notify Families of a Positive COVID-19 Case



- If your child is identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case in the school, you will be notified by Public Health.
- If you are not contacted by Public Health, your child is not considered a close contact and would not be required to stay home from school
- In some circumstances, families may be advised Public Health has determined it is safe for your child to return to school before the end of the 14-day period



York Region Public Health Final Reminders



- Conduct Daily Screening with your child before attending school
- Keep your children home when they have symptoms, even if mild
- Seek testing if your child has symptoms of COVID-19 or is a close contact of a case
- Download the COVID-19 app – so you can be informed if you are a close contact of a case
- Get your Flu Shot
- Avoid crowded gatherings
- Maintain 2 meters distance or more with anyone outside of your household
- Wear face coverings / masks
- Avoid large gatherings of children playing on municipal playgrounds

All of us play an important role in stopping the spread of COVID-19





YCDSB Presentation





YCDSB School Re-entry Plan



- Daily COVID-19 Self-Assessment Screening for students and staff
- Physical distancing
- Hand hygiene
- Student masks
 - mandatory masks for students in Gr. 4-12
 - strongly encourage masks for students in Kindergarten - Gr.3
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Staff
 - Medical masks
 - Face Shields (when 2 m/6 ft of physical distance cannot be maintained from students/staff)
 - Other PPE as required



YCDSB School Re-entry Plan



- Entry and exit protocols to minimize congestion of students/staff
- Recess protocols to allow for physical distancing
- Essential visitors only
- Education and reminders for students on COVID-19 protocols
- Washroom protocols (e.g. maximum capacity, schedule, etc.)
- Enhanced cleaning
 - high-touch surfaces cleaned a minimum of twice daily.
 - examples include door hardware in corridors, bottle filling stations, water fountain handles, washroom faucets and handles, etc.
- School bus protocols



YCDSB Response to Holy Name CES Outbreak



- Continue to enforce all protocols listed on Board's School Re-entry Plan www.ycdsb.ca/reopening.
- Plan is reviewed/updated regularly following weekly meetings with YRPH
- Most cases contracted in the community; **no transmission** from staff to students
- A shared responsibility!
 - We will continue regular communication and reminders to parents/students
 - York Region is in Stage 2
 - Adhere to the protocols mandated by the Government of Ontario
 - Maintain physical distance 2 metres/6 feet
 - strong recommendation to remain in social circles with members in the same household
 - mask wearing when physical distancing is not possible



YCDSB Response to Holy Name CES Outbreak



- Public Health has reviewed the re-entry plan and protocols with school administration
- School administration will review all protocols with staff, and staff will review with students
 - Physical distancing
 - Hand hygiene
 - Mask wearing
 - Enter/exit, washrooms, recess, etc.
- Regular ongoing reminders



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Is York Region Public Health conducting contact tracing? What is the criteria used to determine who should be contacted?

York Region Public Health Answer:

- Yes, York Region Public Health conducts contact tracing.
- The criteria is as follows:
 - In a school setting, a close contact is defined as a confirmed case within a cohort of student in a class.
 - Individuals who were less than 2 metres/6 feet apart and were face to face with each other for 10 to 15 minutes or longer.
 - York Region Public Health takes into consideration with events that may have happened outside the school property but reiterates that COVID-19 is less likely to spread outdoors compared to indoors.
 - York Region Public Health also takes into consideration with events that may have happened in the community.
 - York Region Public Health also performs a risk assessment for every investigation.



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

What will staff do to prevent the mixing of cohorts when using the washroom?

York Catholic District School Board Answer:

- Health and safety protocols remain in place,
 - i.e. physical distancing, washroom indicators to ensure social distancing both inside and outside the washroom, maximum capacity indicators outside the washroom
- Public health nurses reviewed/approved school's washroom procedure
- Students sanitize their hands when they leave and return to the classroom
- All high touch surfaces cleaned regularly throughout the day



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Why is there a staggered recess time for each cohort? Does it decrease the amount of time that students spend outdoors?

York Catholic District School Board Answer:

- To ensure schools can maintain physical distance and prevent mixing of cohorts
- Holy Name CES follows the hybrid recess protocol
- Teachers ensure students participate in 20 minutes of daily physical activity (DPA) outdoors (weather permitting).



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Why don't students wear their mask on their way outside for recess?

York Catholic District School Board Answer:

- Proper mask care is an important safety measure
- York Region Public Health supports our method
 - students maintain sanitized mask by donning, doffing and storing their masks in the classroom
- Also good way to keep masks clean from sweat, bacteria and dirt
- Physical distancing maintained at all times leaving and re-entering the schools for recess



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Does Holy Name CES have air purifier systems?

York Catholic District School Board Answer:

- HVAC system is compliant with Ontario Building Code for ventilation
- Filtration system currently being upgraded to MERV13 filters as precautionary measure
- Ventilation is optimized as follows:
 - HVAC units operated on an extended schedule (2 hours before and after school)
 - Ventilation units checked and monitored regularly
 - Temperature setpoints adjusted and comfort conditions monitored



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Why don't members of the same household have to self-isolate if a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19?

York Region Public Health Answer:

- **Close contact:** If an individual has tested positive for COVID-19, members of their household must also self-isolate. Those household members would then be considered a close contact.
- **Contact of a contact:** Individuals who were potentially exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 must self-isolate, however, the members of their household are not required to self-isolate.



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Why are students allowed to go back to school if they don't show symptoms within two weeks of being in close contact with a positive COVID-19 case? What if they are asymptomatic?

York Region Public Health Answer:

- York Region Public Health sends a cohort/class home to self-isolate for 14-days because this duration of time is the incubation period.
- This means that if a student/individual becomes symptomatic or test positive within these 14-days, they will have completed the incubation period and will be safe to return to school.
- As always, if students/individuals are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, then they should remain home.



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

What can be done to remind parents to adhere to health and safety protocols when picking up and dropping off their child(ren) at school?

York Catholic District School Board Answer:

- Safety is shared responsibility
- We will continue to communicate protocols and expectations on school and Board level through Re-entry Plan established in conjunction with York Region Public Health to keep everyone in our school community safe
- Parents/guardians must follow Government of Ontario's mandates regarding physical distancing of 2 metres/6 feet and mask wearing



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Why doesn't Holy Name CES have staggered arrival and dismissal times?

York Catholic District School Board Answer:

- Interferes with learning for face to face and remote students
- Difficult to adopt at schools with larger population
- School uses three entrances to separate student groups by division
- Parents advised to drop off child(ren) as close to the bell time as possible
 - prevent unnecessary congregation or mixing
- Parents asked to leave school grounds promptly after drop off and/or pick up
- Active School Travel Program
 - parents encouraged to drop off child(ren) a block away from school
 - avoid congestion at the school
 - supports students' physical and mental well-being
 - helps keep school zones safe



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Why does the Government of Ontario's website show different number of cases than the York Catholic District School Board's COVID-19 Advisory Board webpage?

York Catholic District School Board Answer:

- The Government of Ontario's website sometimes experiences technical issues or makes errors
- Staff check the website daily and requests corrections if necessary



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

How will Holy Name CES ensure all staff follow health and safety protocols?

York Catholic District School Board Answer:

- To reiterate, there were no transmission from staff to students.
- As mentioned by York Region Public Health, six student and 3 staff cases
- School administration will review with school staff all health and safety protocols outlined in the Board's School Re-entry Plan
- Staff will continue to follow protocols around physical distancing, wearing necessary PPE, eating in designated areas, following hand hygiene and more.



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

If a student who takes the bus is tested positive, will other students on the bus be considered a close contact?

York Catholic District School Board Answer:

- York Region Public Health conducts an investigation into all possible exposures.
- Close contacts identified are contacted by York Region Public Health with next steps which may include self-isolation for 14 days.
- This applies to students who take the bus.



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Will the school reopen on Monday, October 26?

York Catholic District School Board Answer:

- Everyone, including the Grade 4 cohort, will return to school on Monday, October 26 as directed by York Region Public Health.



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

What are the factors considered by York Region Public Health to determine that the school is safe to reopen on Monday, October 26?

York Region Public Health Answer:

- The last day that Holy Name CES students and staff attended school was Friday, October 9. When students and staff return to school on Monday, October 26, they will have completed their 14-day incubation period.
- Throughout the incubation period, York Region Public Health will continue to monitor if additional cases arises during this time. At this time, York Region Public Health has not been notified of any additional cases that were exposed to each other at Holy Name CES.
- Once the 14-day period has passed, York Region Public Health will know that it is safe for students and staff to return to school. Essentially, the school has hit a reset button following this 14-day period.
- Upon the reopening of the school, Public Health nurses will be onsite at the school to conduct an additional infection, prevention and control assessment (iPAC) to ensure the appropriate measures are in place.
- York Region Public Health continues to monitor closely after this period.



Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Will there be any change to cohorts when everyone returns on Monday, October 26?

York Catholic District School Board Answer:

- The hybrid model reorganization remains in place.
- Students will stay in their current cohorts



Live Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Why was the school closed for 14-days? Stores and businesses are able to close the store for one day and reopen after it has been thoroughly cleaned.

York Region Public Health Answer:

- York Region Public Health investigates and makes determinations on a case-by-case basis. It depends on transmissions, the number of cases and more.
- In the case of Holy Name CES, it was a collaborative decision with the school. The cases at the school was not considered a widespread case, but there were a number of classrooms affected where staff and students were directed to self-isolate for 14-days. Therefore, from an operational standpoint, it was more feasible to temporarily close the school for 14-days.
- This also acts as a reset button to ensure the incubation period is over before students and staff return to the school. Therefore, the last known exposure at the school was 14-days ago.



Live Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

While children exhibit more milder symptoms of COVID-19, what are the long-term effects on children?

York Region Public Health Answer:

- The research continues to evolve, in addition to the long-term effects of COVID-19 in children and adults.
- What researchers do know is that there are fewer rates of hospitalization, deaths and significant health complications in children.
- YRPH advises everyone to be cautious.



Live Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Why can't students stay inside for recess so that there are no mixing of cohorts. Can't students obtain their breaks through their daily physical activity (DPAs) indoors?

Answer:

- **YCDSB:** DPAs happen on days where students don't have Physical Education class. We have added additional DPAs to try and get students and staff outdoors as much as possible. As mentioned by YRPH, it is great for physical and mental health, get fresh air and do physical activity. We will not restrict recess any further at this time, in fact, we are trying to extend student's time outdoors which is why we have implemented the hybrid model to ensure there is no mixing of cohorts at recess.
- **YRPH:** The risk outdoors is less because students can physically distance, there are less surfaces to touch and the ventilation is much better; physical and mental health effects are much better when students can go outdoors.



Live Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

York Region Public Health mentioned they were notified of a positive case as recent as October 16, how is it safe for that individual to return to school on October 26?

York Region Public Health Answer:

- To reiterate, the general school community is safe to return to school because the last known exposure to them would have been Friday, October 9.
- This individual with the positive case will still be required to self-isolate. Members of the same household will also need to self-isolate.



Live Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Why is it not a requirement for students to wear masks in hallways?

York Catholic District School Board Answer:

- To clarify, masks are required in the hallways. In fact, students must wear a mask in the classroom and when exiting the classrooms.
- The only time students are not required to wear masks in the hallways are when they are exiting and entering the school building for recess. During this time, staff are monitoring closely to ensure students are physically distanced and are exiting the school building quickly.
- As mentioned, this is to ensure students are properly donning and doffing their masks while in the classrooms. York Region Public Health has stated that it is a better way for students to maintain a sanitized mask.



Live Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

If my child is directed to self-isolate for 14-days as part of their classroom cohort but tests negative, are they still required to self-isolate for the full 14-days?

York Region Public Health Answer:

- Yes because in some instances where an individual is tested early in their incubation period, tests might not detect symptoms at that early stage and the individual may still develop symptoms. Therefore, individuals must continue to self-isolate for the full 14-days.



Live Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

Are all confirmed cases reported to the school by York Region Public Health even if parent don't notify the school?

York Region Public Health Answer:

- Yes, York Region Public Health are notified of all confirmed cases from testing centers. York Region Public Health receives the notification, investigates the case and if determined that a case is linked to a school, they will notify the school immediately and work with the school and school boards to dismiss cohorts, if necessary, and send notifications to their school community.



Live Q & A Based on Parent Feedback



Question:

In regards to the students who were identified as close contacts and were directed to self-isolate for 14-days, if they weren't tested, are they safe to return to school on October 26? What if they're asymptomatic?

York Region Public Health Answer:

- When York Region Public Health dismisses a cohort, they advise those individuals to get tested early. However, the reality is that not everyone is able to get tested because of numerous reasons, including testing centre capacities. Therefore, it is not feasible for everyone to get tested before they return to school. That is why Ontario has implemented the 14-day incubation period.
- If an individual is symptomatic and has tested positive, they are more likely to spread COVID-19 to others while asymptomatic individuals are not as likely to spread to others.

1. This livestream presentation will remain on YCDSB's YouTube channel (YorkCatholicTV) for one week until Thursday, October 29
2. Families will receive a follow-up communication
 - Questions not answered tonight will be included
 - Questions and answers from this presentation will also be included



THANK YOU

