

December 12, 2020

Dear Students, Staff and Families of Northumberland Hills PS,

As always, the well-being of our students and staff is our top priority. With that in mind, we are letting you know that the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit has notified us today of a confirmed student case of COVID-19 at our school. That individual will remain at home until the Health Unit advises they may return to school. The identity of the individual is protected by privacy legislation and cannot be shared. A positive case at a school does not necessarily mean the individual was exposed to COVID-19 at the school. They may have been exposed somewhere else in the community.

We are working closely with the HKPR District Health Unit to identify anyone at the school who may have been a close contact of the individual to advise them as to any next steps they must take, such as self-isolation, self-monitoring and/or testing. Those individuals will be contacted directly, everyone else can continue to attend school and work as usual.

We appreciate that this news may be concerning for our students, staff and parents. We want to assure everyone that we continue to work closely with the HKPR District Health Unit to respond to this issue, and will follow all their recommendations to help keep students and staff safe.

I can also share with you that our school is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected each day. In addition to our daily pandemic cleaning protocols, which include increased cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces, and thorough cleanings in the evenings, KPR schools are regularly disinfected on a rotating basis with an electro-static sprayer. The Clorox Total 360 System is approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19; it kills cold and flu viruses, MRSA and norovirus in two minutes or less, kills 99.9% of bacteria in five seconds and can even sanitize soft surfaces. It has been used effectively in schools and other education settings for several years.

Our school will be disinfected by the electro-static sprayer this weekend.

To protect yourselves, your children and the community, the Health Unit recommends that you stay home if you are sick; complete daily self-screening; continue to physically distance from others as much as possible; wear a mask when indoors, on a bus, or when you cannot maintain a two metre distance outside; clean hands often with soap and water or hand sanitizer; cough and sneeze into your sleeve; avoid touching your face; avoiding sharing personal items with others; and avoid close contact with anyone who is ill. For more information regarding COVID-19, please visit <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/covid-19/>

We continue to follow all the recommendations of the provincial government and our local public health agencies. If you would like further information on the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board's COVID-19 protocols, please visit <http://kprschoools.ca/en/COVID-19.html>

We will continue to let families know of any further developments. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Koshurba  
Principal