

HWDSB

October 13, 2020

Dear Families,

This letter is to inform you that a staff member in our System Alternative Education – Rebecca Street location has tested positive for COVID-19.

The staff member was last in the building on October 8, 2020. Hamilton Public Health Services (HPHS) notified Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) of the positive test result on October 13, 2020.

As a precautionary measure, students associated with this case have received instruction from HPHS to not attend school and isolate for a 14-day period. All staff impacted have also been informed.

It is vital that personal health information and identifiers are not released, and the privacy of everyone involved is respected.

We are working closely with Public Health to ensure appropriate measures are in place to prevent the spread of illness to other students or people in the school community. Please continue to have your child attend school, unless of course you are a close contact and directed otherwise by HPHS, and perform daily screening for COVID-19 symptoms. Find symptoms on the [COVID-19 school screening](#) website.

If your child(ren) develops COVID-19 symptoms, they must stay home from school and should get a COVID-19 test. To book a COVID-19 please go to www.HamiltonCovidTest.ca.

If your child/ren will be away from school, please use SafeArrival to inform the school about the reason for the absence; provide information about symptoms. This will help HWDSB and Hamilton Public Health understand illness transmission in the community. Find details about [Safe Arrival](#).

Cleaning

In response to a confirmed case, HWDSB follows a detailed cleaning and disinfecting protocol. Additional measures may also be taken, in consultation with Public Health. Students will only be admitted into a school space requiring extra cleaning measures due to COVID-19, after these measures are complete and when we are confident it is safe to use.

Well-being Supports

We understand that this is a concerning development and want to support you. For mental health and well-being supports, please contact your school or explore the resources at www.hwdsb.on.ca/mentalhealth

Questions

HWDSB

- Hamilton Public Health COVID hotline at 905-974-9848 or covidschoolteam@hamilton.ca
- If you feel that your child could benefit from support, HWDSB social workers are available. Please speak with staff if this would be helpful. You can also use the HWDSB Helps app explained at <https://bit.ly/2DhmURj>
- Learn about COVID-19 in Hamilton at <https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus>
- Learn about HWDSB's school reopening precautions at www.hwdsb.on.ca/covid19

Our shared priority is the health and safety of the children and staff in our school community. As we continue to navigate through this pandemic, it will always be our intention to provide you with information that assures you of our preparedness, procedural precautions, and of our ability to provide a safe setting for both children, their families, and educators.

Please know that we remain focused on the well-being of our school community and will update you throughout the process. Contact the school if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Glenn Cooke
Principal