



Westdale Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

700 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 1A5
Phone: 905.522.1387
Fax: 905.521.0542

EMAIL: westdale@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/westdale

October 17, 2020

Dear Westdale Families,

This letter is to inform you that a student in our school has tested positive for COVID-19.

Hamilton Public Health Services (HPHS) notified Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) of the positive test result on October 17. The student was last at school on Friday, October 9.

HPHS has consulted on this case and have assessed there are no student or staff close contacts related to this case – including study hall contacts or school bus transportation. As such, HPHS considers the risk to other students and staff low. It is vital that personal health information and identifiers are not released, and the privacy of everyone involved is respected.

HWDSB and our school 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 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 develops COVID-19 symptoms, they will need to stay home from school. 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 and staff will only be admitted into a school space once 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



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Questions

- 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,

Josh Connor
Principal