

MEMO

September 2020

To: HWDSB, HWCDSB Principal/Vice-Principal

RE: COVID 19 Public Health Nurses in Schools

The Province of Ontario has announced funding to ensure Public Health Nurse (PHN) service is available to support:

- the safe reopening of schools, and;
- the response to COVID-19 cases within school communities.

The City of Hamilton Public Health Services has mobilized a team of PHNs to support this work in schools.

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, the COVID School Health PHN will work collaboratively with the school, public health programs and services, and other community partners (as needed) to implement the Ontario Public Health Standards: School Health Standard with a focus on COVID-19 and infectious disease prevention.

The assigned PHN will contact you in the coming days to schedule an initial school visit. This first visit will focus on infection prevention & control (IPAC) measures implemented within your school (i.e. physical distancing measures, modifications to the environment, use of Personal Protective Equipment etc.). The PHNs will provide support and guidance as needed in relation to these infection prevention measures.

Additionally, the PHN will:

- Access, interpret, and communicate COVID-19-related information to students, families, teachers, and school administrators;
- Facilitate rapid-response support to schools and boards (as needed) in relation to:
 - Case and contact management;
 - Outbreak management

You can reach the COVID School Team in the following ways:

Email: covidschoolteam@hamilton.ca

Phone: 905-974-9848



PHNs will be available to provide these services and supports to families of schools, and the allotted time in each school will be determined in collaboration with school board leadership and will utilize a public health risk assessment tool (i.e. risk for potential outbreak).

Should you have any questions about the role of the COVID School Health PHN, please contact:

Chris Pickersgill, Program Manager

905.546.2424 ext. 3787

Chris.Pickersgill@hamilton.ca

Thank you



Hamilton