



January 31, 2021

Subject: Positive case of COVID-19 at École publique Passeport Jeunesse

Bonjour,

The Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario (CSPNE) has been informed by the Porcupine Health Unit (PHU) that a member of the school community at École publique Passeport Jeunesse in Hearst has tested positive for COVID-19.

The individual is currently being monitored by the Porcupine Health Unit (PHU) and is in self-isolation at home while the investigation continues.

The school has been keeping records of all students and staff attendance within the school and cohorts. This information has been shared with the Porcupine Health Unit (PHU) to help them identify close contacts of the case. Public health is currently following up with students and staff identified as close contacts – these students and staff have received a letter from the PHU, and will all be called within the next 24 hours.

In general, for COVID-19, a close contact is anyone who was within 2 metres or 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes during the time of infectivity. The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as medical masks and eye protection impacts this risk assessment. An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting 48 hours (or 2 days) before the person had any symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19. Passing a person in the hallway is low risk of spreading the virus. The Porcupine Health Unit will contact you if you or your child is considered a contact.

At this time, we recommend that you continue to monitor yourself and your child for symptoms. If symptoms develop, isolate immediately and call your [local assessment centre](#) to arrange testing.

Symptoms can include:

Fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat/hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing, loss of sense of smell or taste, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or runny nose or nasal congestion.

But in some cases, **atypical symptoms** could develop, such as, unexplained fatigue or malaise, muscle aches, delirium, unexplained or increased number of falls, acute functional decline, exacerbation of current chronic conditions, chills, headaches, croup, conjunctivitis.

A reminder that all students and staff must conduct daily screening before going to school, using the Ontario government's [school screening tool](#) and follow instructions.



If you have any questions about what to do, call your health care provider or the PHU at 1-800-461-1818. If you have severe symptoms such as breathing difficulties, call 9-1-1.

Currently, the Porcupine Health Unit does not recommend closing the school. As a result, École publique Passeport Jeunesse remains open to staff and other students. The custodial staff is carrying out a thorough cleaning of the school by disinfecting and cleaning all areas frequented by staff and students. The PHU is monitoring the situation and will provide additional guidance and information as required.

The CSPNE will ensure that you have all relevant information if there are any changes to the current situation. The Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario and all staff are prohibited from disclosing any additional details that may identify individuals, in accordance with the Health Privacy Act.

Thank you for your understanding and collaboration. Stay safe.

Simon Fecteau
Directeur de l'éducation