

School/Bus Case Information Letter – Omicron Variant of Concern

School: Rickson Ridge Public School

Date: December 16, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian/Staff:

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Public Health is working to manage COVID-19 cases and contacts related to a **positive COVID-19 case with test results suggestive of having the Omicron (B.1.1.529) variant of concern (VOC).**

WDG Public Health has notified the school and any contacts within the school that have been identified as a close contact will receive an additional high-risk contact letter with guidance and directions. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health is taking all necessary steps to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 both in the school and in the community.*

What is the Omicron (B1.1.529) Variant of Concern?

Omicron became a variant of concern by the World Health Organization on November 26, 2021. The risk of severe infection, re-infection, increased ability to transmit to others and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines against Omicron is uncertain currently. For this reason, more enhanced public health case and contact management strategies are being applied to individuals with recent travel and/or test results suggestive of the Omicron variant of concern.

What will Public Health do?

As per Ministry of Health (Nov. 30) [COVID-19 Variant of Concern Omicron \(B.1.1.529\): Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#):

- WDGPH will contact the individual(s) who tested positive for COVID-19 as well as the school and bus consortium/company (if applicable).
- Students, staff, and visitors who are determined to be a **high-risk contact** of the individual(s) who tested positive **will receive a high-risk contact letter.**
- **Note change in isolation requirements: High-risk contacts are required to isolate regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status or previously positive status.** The isolation period for all high-risk contacts (vaccinated and unvaccinated) will be **10 days starting from the day they were dismissed from school.**
- Instructions for household members (i.e. siblings) is also provided in the high-risk contact letter.

- **Staff/students who are not contacted by Public Health, are not considered a high-risk contact.** They should continue to monitor and screen for symptoms of COVID-19 daily, practice hand hygiene, wear a face covering, and practice physical distancing.

What will the school and/or bus company do?

- The school/bus will provide WDGPH with information about who the individual was in close contact with while at school (including before and after school care) and on the school bus. *
- The school/bus will clean and disinfect all areas where the individual may have been.
- The school/bus will work with Public Health to develop a plan to protect all students and staff, and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

What should you do?

- Continue to monitor and screen for symptoms of COVID-19 using the [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening tool](#) daily.
- Staff or students who develop symptoms of COVID-19 should immediately isolate from others and follow the guidance in the screening tool.
- If you receive a call or letter from Public Health, follow the directions provided.
- Ensure you and eligible members of your family have received their COVID-19 vaccine.

How do you get more information?

Visit the school website for more information. Also visit the “For Schools” section of the WDGPH website wdgpublichealth.ca

***Note:** Personal health information may be provided to schools only for the purpose of contact tracing. The name of the individual who tests positive for COVID-19 will not be disclosed publicly to parents, staff or other students unless it is deemed necessary by Public Health, or unless given permission to do so by the individual, or their parent or guardian.