



# PVNC Schools COVID-19 Communication Protocol

As we begin this school year, we think it's important to be clear about what we can, and what we cannot, communicate related to illness and COVID-19 cases this school year.

We are required to follow Ministry of Education and Public Health guidelines and privacy laws in terms of what we communicate to families and staff.

We **WILL** communicate about positive COVID cases in the following ways:

- We will tell you if there is a confirmed COVID-19 case in a school. Once we are notified by the local public health agency that there is a confirmed case in a school, we will share that information directly with the school community.
- The local public health agency will conduct case and contact management and will call affected families and staff directly if there are any specific steps that they need to take, such as testing, self-isolation or self-monitoring for symptoms.
- Information will be posted on school and school board websites if there is a case in a school.
- Information on 'outbreaks' (two or more linked cases at a school) will also be posted on the website of the local public health agency.

We **CANNOT** provide information about:

- Individual staff or students. To protect privacy, we cannot share personal or personal health information about individual students or staff members. We cannot identify if someone has a confirmed case of COVID-19, has gone for testing, or is self-isolating.
- Students or staff who are ill or absent from school. Many illnesses are not related to COVID-19. Those who are ill will be expected to follow our Illness Protocol, by:
  - Contacting a health professional or completing the online assessment (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>) and following direction regarding testing or other steps, and
  - Not returning to school until symptoms have been resolved for at least 24 hours.

Thank you for your continued support as we move forward together this school year.



Peterborough Victoria  
Northumberland and Clarington  
Catholic District School Board

**Help Stop the Spread**  
[www.pvnccdsb.on.ca](http://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca)