



## ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

PRAESTANTIA SCHOLASTICA, PRAESTANTIA RELIGIOSA, PRAESTANTIA ATHLETICA

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**PRINCIPAL:**  
MR. D. DIFRANCESCO

**VICE PRINCIPALS:**  
MRS. L. GAMBALE  
MR. M. MARRAZZO  
MR. K. MONACO

April 5, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to inform you that Hamilton Public Health Services (HPHS) has declared a COVID-19 outbreak at St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School, effective April 5, 2021, after a second staff member with no student contact tested positive for COVID-19. The case is related to a previous staff case reported at the school. The identity of the individuals will not be released out of privacy considerations.

**Hamilton Public Health Services has indicated that there are no additional school-related close contacts associated with this case.**

According to the [COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management](#) on the Government of Ontario website, an outbreak in a school is defined as two or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students and/or staff (or other visitors) in a school with an epidemiological link, within a 14-day period, where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school.

Examples of reasonably having acquired infection in school include:

- No obvious source of infection outside of the school setting; or
- Known exposure in the school setting.

Persons who test positive for COVID-19 may not return to school until they are cleared by HPHS.

St. Thomas More CSS and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board are working with public health officials to manage and monitor the outbreak. The school will continue to follow guidance from Public Health Officials around infection prevention and control.

The outbreak will be declared over when at least 14 days have passed with no evidence of ongoing transmission that could reasonably be related to exposures in the school and no further ill individuals associated with the initial exposed cohorts with tests pending.

**Students and staff should continue to attend school, unless directed otherwise by HPHS, and to screen daily for COVID-19 symptoms on the provincial [COVID-19 school screening website](#).**

In closing, please be assured of our ongoing commitment to the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff, and will notify you of any new developments.

Sincerely,

Mr. D. DiFrancesco  
Principal