



# Media Release

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April 13, 2021

## **COVID-19 Associated with Georgian Bay Community School**

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with Bluewater District School Board to address five confirmed cases and one probable case of COVID-19, associated with Georgian Bay Community School in Meaford. There is evidence transmission was the result of social gatherings among the high school aged youth and not related to in-school activities. Additional testing may identify other individuals also associated with this cluster.

### **No bus routes are involved with this case.**

The individuals with COVID-19 has been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. We have worked with the individuals and the school, along with the school board and have identified all others, both in and out of the school environment, who may have been exposed and have determined their risk level. Any cohorts that have been identified as contacts to the case have been excluded from school at this time.

### **Those NOT contacted by Public Health need not take any additional steps including asymptomatic testing.**

Public Health is the lead in all outbreaks and case management. Public Health will contact you if you have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19, based on a thorough risk assessment completed only by Public Health.

**Determining who has had close contact is a decision that can only be made by Public Health.** Anyone at heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission due to close contact to a person with COVID-19 will be contacted by Public Health within 24 hours of the investigation.

**The Grey Bruce Health Unit will direct those considered at risk regarding testing requirements and recommendations (e.g., timing).** There is no value in anyone being tested before they are notified and instructed to do so by Public Health. Results of early testing are unreliable and place individuals at risk of more testing than is required.

As a reminder to the public, if you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please proceed to your nearest assessment centre for testing.

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All contact tracing and determination of individual and community risk is made by Public Health. This is true of all cases, whether in schools, workplaces or the community. A health care provider or school official cannot make this decision.

**For More Information:**

Dr. Ian Arra, MD MSc FRCPC ACPM ABPM

Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

To arrange to speak with Dr. Arra, please contact Drew Ferguson at:

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