



Media Release

January 31, 2021

COVID-19 Associated with School

The Grey Bruce Health Unit is working with Bluewater District School Board to address a confirmed and a probable case of COVID-19 associated with Walkerton District Community School, in Brockton, Ontario.

While there are two individuals with COVID-19 associated with this school, our assessment, to date, indicates there is no evidence that transmission took place within the school environment. Currently there are no outbreaks (i.e. evidence of transmission from person to person) in any schools or childcare centres in Grey Bruce. No bus routes of any schools are involved with this case.

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.

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

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.

In this situation, the individuals with COVID-19 have been contacted directly by our COVID-19 Case and Contact Management Team. We are working with the clients and Bluewater District School Board to identify others, both in and out of the school environment, who may have been exposed and to determine their risk level.

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.

A healthier future for all.

101 17th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5 www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

519-376-9420

1-800-263-3456

Fax 519-376-0605

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:

519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456 ext. 1269 or d.ferguson@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca