



Update: Positive COVID-19 Case in Gladstone Elementary School

September 23, 2020

Yesterday afternoon, the Principal of Gladstone Elementary School was notified by Public Health that a student registered in that school had tested positive for COVID-19.

As soon as a positive case in a school setting is confirmed, Public Health leads the contact tracing and notification of families and individuals that may be affected. Public Health conducts an investigation to determine who might be considered a “close contact”. This is where it is so important that schools and families have been following all of the protocols in place to protect children and staff from exposure. The school provides public health with seating plans, attendance records for classes and buses, and records of visitors to the school.

Everyone in the Gladstone Elementary School community received detailed instructions and information from the school via Public Health yesterday afternoon. Anyone considered a close contact will remain in self-isolation for the period of time determined by Public Health. The school division is activating plans for remote learning for the staff and children impacted by this incident.

This year, Pine Creek School Division has employed additional custodial and cleaning staff in every one of our schools. All schools have additional sanitizing and cleaning on a daily basis to ensure the safety of all individuals in the building.

The staff and students in every one of our schools have worked very hard to ensure that all safety protocols and precautions are followed. This is not always comfortable. We don't always like how school is different this year. But now that we have experienced a positive case, and we see how the protocols protect others from infection, we are reminded of the importance of continuing to be extra diligent in wearing masks, keeping cohorts separated, cleaning surfaces and washing hands regularly, and screening for symptoms daily.

We are extremely proud of our students for their very quick shift to learning in schools during a pandemic, and to our staff for the many hours of extra work and complex problem solving to keep children and families safe.

“Learning For Living”



At this time I want to especially thank Alan Warkentin and Donna Lach at Gladstone Elementary for their dedication to the families of Gladstone Elementary School last night, and to every one of the students and staff at that school as they support each other in their shift to some different ways of learning over the next few days.

I would also like to commend our local Public Health team for their swift and professional approach to working with Pine Creek School Division in assessing risk and notifying families. We could not have asked for better guidance and direction.

If you have any questions, please direct them to 204 385-6661.



COVID-19 Response Management in K–12 Schools and Early Learning Child Care Centres



https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/K12ResponseManagement.pdf