



**Thunder Bay District  
Health Unit**

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**TBDHU.COM**

December 16, 2020

To the St. Bernard School Community:

This letter is to advise you that the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) has been notified that an individual associated with St. Bernard School has tested positive for COVID-19.

We are currently actively working with the school and the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board to investigate and manage any potential exposures in the school and any related settings, such as bus transportation.

Through this work, public health is identifying all those who would be considered "close contacts" (high risk contacts) of the individual with COVID-19. Individuals in the same classroom or cohort, and some or all individuals with the same bus transportation, are considered "close contacts". Parents or caregivers of students in the impacted class/cohort will be contacted directly by a public health nurse and given instructions about what they need to do. Similarly, public health nurses will also be contacting directly any teachers, staff, visitors or any others who are impacted.

All individuals associated with the impacted class/cohort have already been dismissed from the school. These individuals and anyone else identified by public health as a close contact will be required to stay home and not return to the school setting until cleared by public health.

Everyone else in the school setting who is not deemed a close contact and therefore not specifically contacted by public health, would not be considered at elevated risk and does not require testing because of this situation at this time.

The full investigation will continue to unfold over the next few days. Additional measures and actions will be taken as needed to manage the situation. Again, public health will contact individuals and families who are directly impacted.

Additional updates will be provided to the school community over the coming days by both TBDHU and the school and school board. For further information about COVID-19 and schools, please refer to the TBDHU website: [TBDHU.com/stopgerms](https://www.tbdhu.com/stopgerms) and [TBDHU.com/safereturn\\_parents](https://www.tbdhu.com/safereturn_parents).

Sincerely,

Janet DeMille, MD, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health  
Thunder Bay District Health Unit