



COVID-19 Outbreak at N.J. Macpherson School

To: Students, Families, Staff and Guardians of NJ Macpherson School who are not identified as contacts of COVID-19

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The Yellowknife Public Health unit and the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) have determined that a person with COVID-19 attended N.J. Macpherson School on April 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th, 2021. At this time the OCPHO identified 1 person with confirmed COVID-19 and 4 connected individuals with probable COVID-19 (of which 2 are presumptive positive through ID NOW testing), with final laboratory confirmation pending.

The OCPHO declares an outbreak in N.J. Macpherson and advises the school to close to in-person learning immediately.

Any **students, staff or volunteers of NJ MacPherson School**, or others identified in this advisory who were present at any point during this identified time interval, you and your household must:

- **Stay at home** and isolate 14 days from May 01, 2021
- **Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19** using the NWT online COVID-19 self-assessment tool or attached self-monitoring handout.
 - [Self-monitoring tool](#)
 - [Self-monitoring handout](#)
 - [Daily self-monitoring form](#)
- **Get tested if you have symptoms:** You or anyone who is a contact should be tested if any symptoms develop. If you develop symptoms, please isolate away from other members of your household and contact a healthcare provider for further direction.
- **Household Members who are fully vaccinated (2 weeks after your 2nd dose of COVID 19 vaccine) can safely work if no one in the household is symptomatic or identified as a close contact of COVID 19**



- All **unvaccinated household members** of NJ Macpherson school must isolate for 14 days until public health can complete their investigation and determine the extent of exposures.
- **Call 911** if you or your child develop severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing.

All household members of contacts must isolate.
All Household members of COVID19 cases must isolate
All Household members with someone symptomatic must isolate

Who should get tested?

People who were not listed as school contacts or who do not live in the same household as contacts do not require testing unless they develop symptoms, or have been advised by Yellowknife Public Health otherwise. As our testing capacity is limited, please only present for testing if you have been advised to do so by public health.

Testing recommendations may change as the situation changes and public health will provide further advice as necessary.

If you develop symptoms, or if Yellowknife Public Health advises you should get tested:

- Arrange testing at the Yellowknife Testing Centre at 108 Archibald Street (past the airport across from the Folk on the Rocks Site). For details and booking link visit www.nthssa.ca/covid-testing
- Yellowknife Public Health can also arrange testing for you. You can call public health at 767-9120. If you do not have transportation to the testing site, you can call the shuttle at 867-446-1194 after your appointment is booked to arrange transport.



Tips on Self-Isolation: Ideally, a contact to COVID-19 should stay in a room of their own, with access to a private bathroom, and sleep in a separate bedroom. If this is not possible, the contact could try to stay in an alternate location if this is acceptable to the family. The contact and household members can wear non-medical masks in their home for further protection. Alternatively, some people in the home could try to stay in an alternative location while the contact remains at home with enough support. It could be beneficial for household members at risk of severe COVID-19 infections (e.g. those above age 50 or those with underlying medical conditions) to stay in a different location than the contact of COVID-19.

If you feel someone in the household requires assistance with self-isolation plans, notify the public health nurse and they can support you to locate appropriate self-isolation.

Immunization: Vaccination is extremely effective at preventing COVID-19. There is strong evidence showing the Moderna vaccine is very safe, and very effective and can prevent 90 to 95% of infections. Anyone in Yellowknife who is 18 years of age or older can book an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Book online at:

www.nthssa.ca/covid-vaccine

Symptoms to Watch For: If the contact to COVID-19, or anyone in the household develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should call Yellowknife Public Health to arrange testing. Symptoms of COVID-19 usually appear within 14 days after you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 and may include:

- Fever (38°C or higher)
- New or worsening dry cough
- Shortness of breath
- Generally feeling unwell
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Headache
- Diarrhea



- Nausea or Vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal pain
- Skin changes or rash
- Loss of sense of smell/taste
- Loss of appetite

The OCPHO is working closely with school administrators and Yellowknife Public Health staff to ensure that the appropriate public health response is in effect.

For More Information: for general information, visit the Government of Northwest Territories website for more information on COVID-19:

www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/

If you have further questions, please contact your local health care provider or the Yellowknife Public Health unit at 867-767-9120. We expect a high volume of calls so please leave a message and someone will call you back as soon as possible.

Thank-you for your understanding and helping to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 in our community.

Sincerely,

Kami Kandola, MD, MPH, CCFP, FCFP,
ACBOM, DTM&H, ABPM
Chief Public Health Officer