

Good afternoon/morning St. Basil school community,

The Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) would like to provide further guidance for parents/guardians, students and staff related to the ongoing outbreak at St. Basil School.

To date, the spread of COVID-19 has not occurred outside of the currently dismissed cohorts. Cohorts that have been identified as close contacts are home and isolating. As spread outside of the affected cohorts has not been identified at this point, BCHU has not recommended a school closure. The Health Unit will re-evaluate should this situation change.

As the school remains in outbreak, parents/guardians should continue to screen students daily and keep them home should they show any signs of feeling unwell, including a runny nose.

BCHU will also be offering families associated with St. Basil school community take-home rapid antigen screening kits.

This screening is intended for unvaccinated and asymptomatic students only.

At any time, if your child develops symptoms or is identified as a high-risk contact by BCHU staff, they should isolate immediately and seek assessment and testing at the assessment centre operated by the [Brant Community Health Care System](#). Those without transportation available to access an assessment centre are encouraged to reach out directly to BCHU.

Your child's participation in this rapid antigen screening is voluntary. Students are not required to participate in order to attend school.

Test kits will be available for distribution at St. Basil school on Thursday November 11th. Each kit contains five individual tests.

If there is a positive rapid test result it must be followed up with a PCR test offered by the assessment centre operated by the [Brant Community Health Care System](#) to confirm the positive results. Close contact family members do not need to isolate as they await PCR test results. Following a confirmed positive PCR test, all family members must isolate and follow BCHU guidance.

If you choose to participate, please read the important information below prior to using the take-home collection kit.

When to Use a Take-home Rapid Antigen Screening Kit:

- The program is intended for unvaccinated, asymptomatic students in selected schools.

- An individual is considered “unvaccinated” until more than 14 days have passed since receiving their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or their first dose of a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine series.
- Students participating in this screening are to test twice a week:
 - at their residence prior to attending school.
 - consistently with at least 3 days between tests and conducted Sunday to Friday.(Mon/Thurs, Tues/Fri, or Wed/Sun)
 - no more than 48 hours before attending school.

Using the Take-home Rapid Antigen Screening Kit:

- Please follow the instructions provided in the take-home kit.
- How-to information (“[How to test yourself with BD Veritor COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening Test](#)”):

Important note: Parents or guardians may choose to administer this screening on children who may need help (i.e., younger children).

What to do after your test:

- You will know the outcome of the test within 15 minutes. If the result is negative, your child may attend school as usual.
- If the result is **positive**, the student should seek a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible (ideally within 48 hours) at the [local assessment centre](#).
- The student should also stay home and self-isolate until the PCR result is available.

For further information, please contact BCHU at 519-753-4937 and press ‘3’. You can also email your questions to covid19@bchu.org.

Please view the [flow chart](#) regarding isolation and testing of high-risk contacts and their family members. This flow chart is intended to help guide families on the next steps and decisions once a child/student has been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 at their school.