

## STAFF MEMBER AT SAINT FRANCIS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Niagara Catholic has been advised by Niagara Region Public Health that a staff member at Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School has tested positive for COVID-19.

This individual had not travelled prior to showing signs of illness on March 12. This person did not require hospitalization, and is currently recovering at home. The name of the staff member is not being released.

Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School Principal Jim Whittard and Niagara Region Public Health co-signed a letter to all Saint Francis Catholic students and staff earlier today. This letter advised families that Niagara Region Public Health believes there was limited exposure to the affected member of staff while the person was infectious. However, out of an abundance of caution, all students and staff are advised to self-monitor for symptoms for the next 14 days. Any students or staff who show any symptoms of COVID-19 have been instructed self-isolate and to call Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services immediately.

Principal Whittard has advised that none of the Catholic elementary schools within the Saint Francis Catholic Family of Schools had visited Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School in the period before the staff member began showing symptoms.

“The health, safety and well-being of our students and staff is of paramount importance to Niagara Catholic,” said Director of Education, John Crocco. “We pray for the complete recovery of our staff member, and for the continued health and safety of all of our Niagara Catholic community. We are also grateful for the guidance, strong support and cooperation from Niagara Region Public Health, and thank them for all they are doing for our community.”

As this is a public health matter, please direct questions to Meredith Maxwell Manager, Communications and Engagement, [Meredith.Maxwell@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Meredith.Maxwell@niagararegion.ca) or 905-688-8248 x7476 or 1-888-505-6074.

***Niagara Catholic provides excellence in Catholic education to approximately 20,000 students throughout Niagara, from Kindergarten through graduation.***

Date: Friday, March 27, 2020

