

MEDIA RELEASE

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NIAGARA CATHOLIC

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New Cases of COVID-19 at St. Martin Catholic Elementary School

As the Niagara community is aware, an outbreak of COVID-19 was declared at St. Martin Catholic Elementary School on November 19.

Since that time, the number of cases at the school has grown. There are now nine individuals at the school who have tested positive for COVID-19. Some of these cases are directly related to the outbreak. Others have an undetermined origin. Niagara Region Public Health continues to investigate these cases.

As a result of these new reported cases, two classes will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

Niagara Catholic's COVID response leads, as well as members of Senior Staff and the principal of St. Martin Catholic Elementary School have been in regular contact with staff from Niagara Region Public Health to discuss what these growing numbers mean to the school community.

At this time, we have been advised that Public Health does not recommend closing St. Martin Catholic Elementary School, as there is not widespread transmission throughout the school. Niagara Region Public Health recommended that all staff at the school who have not been tested should be, and has offered to facilitate voluntary, on-site testing on Thursday for any staff who have not yet been tested for COVID-19 and wish to be. The tests will be conducted by trained members of Niagara EMS and Niagara Region Public Health.

We are sharing information to allay any concerns members of the community may have if they see EMS vehicles and staff in PPE outside the school.

Testing for staff is recommended, it is not mandatory. Niagara Region Public Health has no plans to do group testing of students, recommending that any parents who wish to have their children tested for COVID-19 do so at a testing centre in Niagara.

We thank our partners at Niagara Region Public Health for their support throughout the outbreak at St. Martin and during COVID-19.