(*Add date*)

Subject: Your child presented with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 at school

Dear Parent or Guardian,

During the school day, your child presented with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. As a precaution, your child was separated from other children and supervised by a staff member until you were able to bring them home. This action was carefully explained to your child.

As part of the Ministry of Health guidance, parents or guardians are contacted to bring their child home from school when they present with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. Also, as a precaution, siblings or other household members who also attend the same school or another school are required to go home and self-isolate. **As your local public health unit, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) advises that you take your child for COVID-19 testing** at a COVID-19 Assessment Centre, Care Clinic, or Drive-Thru which are run by our local hospital partners. (Please note that the Drive-Thru location will not test children under the age of 14).

Your child **must remain in isolation at home while waiting for the results of the COVID-19** test and cannot attend school in person. Siblings and other close contacts, such as people living in the same household, are **also required to isolate at home while waiting for your child's test results**. Staff at the testing centre may be able to advise you on how long it is taking for laboratory results to be received at this time.

If your child tests **positive for COVID-19**, OPH will receive the results directly from the lab and will contact you to provide further direction and guidance. **You do not need to call OPH or the school - OPH will call you.**

If your child tests **negative for COVID-19,**

- Your child cannot return to school until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication, or 48 hours after vomiting or diarrhea has resolved.
- Household members can immediately stop self-isolation and go to school and work if they are symptom-free.

If your child does **NOT** get tested, your child and close contacts MUST stay home and self-isolate for:

- 14 days AND
- Not have a fever AND
- Symptoms have been improving for at least 72 hours, whichever is longer.

For more information:

Please visit the OPH website for information on COVID-19 [symptoms](), [self-monitoring](), [self-isolation]() and [testing]().

If you have any further questions you can call our Ottawa Public Health Information Centre at (613) 580-6744 to speak to a public health nurse.

Sincerely,

 Ottawa Public Health