



February 23, 2021

Dear Hawthorn Parents, Students, Teachers, and Staff,

A Hawthorn Upper School Teacher was notified last Friday, February 19 after teaching the first period to Grade 8 students that she had been in close contact with someone who just tested positive for COVID-19.

She immediately left school, was tested and her results were negative. As per the guidelines, she was instructed to continue self-isolating for 14 days. Two days later she began experiencing possible symptoms and went to be tested a second time. This morning we learned that this second test came back positive for COVID-19.

We immediately reported this information to Toronto Public Health (TPH) with whom we are working collaboratively to facilitate a thorough investigation.

As a result of the above and in an abundance of caution, TPH has asked that all grade 8 students and their siblings not attend school as of Wednesday, February 24 and self-isolate until further instructions are received.

We will continue to work with TPH to share all the information they need to complete their investigation. We will share TPH updates as soon as they become available.

Given all the health protocols we are following, including students being in cohorts, seated behind sneeze guards, the distance teachers keep from students in the classroom, the cleaning of the school during the day and evening, the improved ventilation, and teachers wearing medical grade masks, we are hopeful that this is an isolated case.

I understand that this information may be a cause of anxiety, however, given our close collaboration with TPH you should know that everything that needs to be done is being acted on. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Be assured of continued prayers as we count on yours moving forward.

Sincerely,

Irian Flores de Medina
School Head