

Ministry of the
Attorney General

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Central West Region

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TO: Justice Participants of 45 Main Street East and 55 Main Street East, Hamilton Courthouses

(Note: Please share this memo with relevant staff, justice participants and stakeholders)

FROM: Jennifer Wilder, Manager of Court Operations

DATE: December 11th, 2020

RE: **12112020-008 Health Information Update – 45 Main Street East and 55 Main Street West, Hamilton Courthouses**

I am writing to provide health information regarding the John Sopinka Courthouse at 45 Main Street East and Hamilton Family Court at 55 Main Street West, Hamilton.

Today, Friday, December 11th, 2020, I learned that a non-OPS person who works at the John Sopinka Courthouse, as well as the Hamilton Family Courthouse, has tested positive for COVID-19. The person was tested yesterday, Thursday, December 10th after developing symptoms on Wednesday.

This person was last at work in the Hamilton Family Courthouse on Tuesday, December 8th. They were not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 while present in the building. They have confirmed that they adhered to infection control protocols while in the courthouse, including physical distancing and wearing a face covering. They are currently self-isolating as a normal public health preventative procedure.

I wish to assure you that in responding to this case, as in all cases of COVID-19, the ministry is relying upon the expertise and guidance of public health officials.

Management has been in contact with the Hamilton Public Health Unit about the specific details of this case and any additional precautions that are required by the ministry. They have advised that no further actions need to be taken at this time.

The Public Health Unit will be taking the necessary steps to reduce transmission, including contact tracing. They will proceed based on the specific circumstances of each individual case, and on an assessment of whether people were in close contact with the

person who tested positive. Hamilton Public Health Unit has informed management that if they believe there was close contact between the person who tested positive and other people who work at the courthouses, Hamilton Public Health Unit will be in touch with management.

As you know, MAG's policies, including active screening, physical distancing, hand hygiene, PPE and face coverings, are in place to reduce the possibility of close contact and virus transmission. I urge you to continue to be proactive at all times in following the precautions in place in the courthouses.

The courthouses have been receiving and continues to receive enhanced cleaning on a regular basis.

All staff and stakeholders should continue to self-monitor. Should you or anyone in the workplace experience symptoms, please contact a health care provider or Public Health immediately and advise your manager. If necessary, Public Health will advise the ministry on next steps.

I understand that this situation may cause you concern. Your health and safety is of the highest priority for me. We are in ongoing discussions with the Public Health Unit and will continue to follow their guidance around best practices to ensure your safety.

As a reminder, coronaviruses are spread mainly from person to person through close contact. There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses. These include:

- stay at least 2 metres (6 feet) from others,
- wear face coverings or PPE, as indicated,
- wash your hands often with soap and water,
- use hand sanitizer as needed,
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve,
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth,
- avoid contact with people who are sick, and
- stay home if you are sick

If you have concerns, or if you are in a high-risk group as identified by the Ministry of Health, you are encouraged to use the online self-assessment tool <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> and to discuss any concerns with your manager.

For more information, please visit the Ontario COVID-19 website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov#section-6>

Thank you for your understanding and take good care.

Jennifer Wilder
Manager of Court Operations
CEMT Lead