

September 16, 2020

Dear Families,

Following news of a confirmed case of COVID-19 at one of our schools earlier this week, we anticipate that you may have some questions and concerns. The purpose of this email is to explain [the protocols the school district follows](#) and to answer some common questions you may have. Please be aware that the school district acts under the guidance of the Ministries of Health and Education in relation to the management of illness and confirmed cases, and the communication protocols we follow. Today it was announced that Regional Health Authorities will be posting school exposure information online. Please visit [Fraser Health](#) or the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) to access this information.

### **Current protocol following a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our school community:**

- Fraser Health Authority will interview the impacted individual to initiate the contact tracing process.
- Fraser Health will determine how the individual was infected and who they were in close contact with.
- Fraser Health will determine what steps close contacts should take. This may include self-isolating or self-monitoring for symptoms for 14 days.
- Only Fraser Health can determine who is a close contact.
- The school district and Fraser Health will work together on a communications plan to let staff, students and their families know when there is confirmed case at the school and if it impacts them.

The school district will work closely with Fraser Health to determine if there is any risk to other members of our school community, and if any additional steps are required. We will follow the health authority's guidance.

The key point for families to remember is that Fraser Health will connect directly with any individuals who may have been exposed with further instructions via phone call or letter. If you are contacted by Fraser Health, please follow their advice carefully.

As per our [health and safety guidelines](#), if your child has symptoms, please keep them at home and follow the guidance from the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#).

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### **1. What happens if there is a confirmed case at a school?**

Fraser Health will initiate contact tracing to identify any individuals that need to self-isolate or self-monitor for symptoms. If you are contacted by Fraser Health Authority, please follow their advice carefully.

#### **2. Do staff or students need to stay home and self-isolate?**

If you do not receive a phone call or letter from Fraser Health, your child should continue to attend school. As a reminder, please continue daily health checks to monitor your child for COVID-19 symptoms. Students and staff must stay home even if they have the mildest symptoms. If you have any health questions or concerns, we encourage you to call 811.

### **3. What are you doing to ensure staff and students' safety?**

The safety and well-being of our staff, students and families remains our highest priority. Please be reassured that our school will continue to implement the strict protocols and procedures we have in place so that staff and students can continue to attend school as safely as possible.

All schools in our district are following the provincial health and safety guidelines, and we will continue to work with public health officials to determine if any other actions are necessary. More information on our health and safety plan can be found on our website: <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/news-events/news/information-for-parents-guardians-novel-coronavirus/>

### **4. Can you provide more information on confirmed cases?**

For privacy reasons, we cannot give out any further details.

### **5. What happens if there is a rumour of a COVID case at the school?**

We understand there may be rumours in the community regarding potential COVID cases. Please rest assured that if a member of the school community were to test positive for COVID-19, Fraser Health would follow up directly with any individuals who may have been exposed. We are committed to open and transparent communication with our staff and families. We will work with Fraser Health to share information on COVID-19 exposures at our schools/district sites and those it may impact. As mentioned, school exposure information will also be posted online via [Fraser Health](#) and the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#).

If you have additional questions, please reach out to your school administration. In the meantime, please encourage your child to continue with their efforts to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by:

- Practicing physical distancing
- Washing their hands often with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol)
- Coughing and sneezing into a tissue or the bend of their arm
- Wearing a mask when needed
- Avoiding touching their face
- Not sharing food
- Most importantly, staying at home if they have symptoms

We would also encourage you to visit the [Fraser Health website resource for teachers and parents](#), which includes video questions and answers with Fraser Health Medical Officer Dr. Ingrid Tyler. We appreciate your ongoing understanding and support. Stay healthy!

Sincerely,



Doug Sheppard  
Superintendent of Schools