

December 8, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to inform you of a change to the way Fraser Health issues exposure notifications to schools. Previously, all staff and families at the school would receive the same letter notifying them there had been an exposure at the school, but the letter did not provide information specifying which class was affected. Effective December 5, staff and families will receive one of these letters:

- **Early notification letter - exposed:** Will be sent to classes where a positive case was in attendance during their infectious period.
- **Early notification letter - not exposed:** Will be sent to all other classes not exposed at the school.
- Where a case is not attached to a specific class or cohort, Fraser Health will send an **Early notification - general letter**.

These letters will be shared while contact tracing is underway and if any further follow up is required, Fraser Health will be in touch. This may include self-monitoring letters or additional direction from public health for specific individuals, for example, to self-isolate or get a COVID test.

Another change to the process is that once contact tracing is complete, Fraser Health will issue a **School Bulletin** which informs the entire school community that all contact tracing linked to the positive case is complete.

Please [click here](https://district.public.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/COVID-Exposure-Flowchart_Dec-8-2020.pdf) to see a flowchart that outlines the new process. [https://district.public.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/COVID-Exposure-Flowchart_Dec-8-2020.pdf]

COVID-19 testing process

Please be reminded that it can take several days from the time a person starts to feel ill, goes for a test, receives their test result and contact tracing to happen before an early notification exposure letter is sent out. There are a couple of things you can do to help speed up the process in case the test result is positive:

1. Seek a COVID test as soon as possible after mild symptoms occur.
2. Answer your phone even if it is an unknown number in case Fraser Health is trying to reach you.

Our schools and other district sites are continuing to implement strict health and safety protocols to ensure staff and students remain in their cohorts and are following recommended infection control practices. We know that in the past an early notification letter has alarmed the entire school community about potential exposures when in fact there was no chance of direct exposure for the vast majority of staff and students. The changes to the letters introduced by Fraser Health will provide clarity to our school community about who is potentially exposed and it will also bring closure to exposures earlier for the whole community.

I hope this has been helpful in understanding the changes introduced over the weekend. If you have questions about the contact tracing and notification process, you can reach out to the COVID-19 Call Centre at 604-918-7532. Or, if you have questions about COVID-19 or other health-related concerns, please reach out to 811, your local health provider or the Fraser Health Virtual Care Team at 1-800-314-0999.

We appreciate your ongoing understanding and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Sheppard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Doug Sheppard
Superintendent of Schools