

SCHOOL COVID-19 EXPOSURES



School District 22

Collaboration

- SD22 and Interior Health work closely when a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified.
- Interior Health does the investigation process and contact tracing to determine who may be a close contact to a confirmed case.
- Interior Health staff work closely with the School District and school throughout the case and contact management process.
- Privacy is respected at all times and personal information is not shared.

COVID-19 Exposure in School

- If a student or staff member receives a confirmed positive COVID-19 test result, Interior Health follows a rigorous protocol:
 - **Contact tracing** is initiated to determine how the individual was infected and who they were in close contact with.
 - Interior Health notifies **close contacts** who may be at increased risk. These individuals may be advised to self monitor for symptoms for 14 days and/or self-isolate during this time.
 - Only Interior Health can determine who is a **close contact** (may include cohort contacts, friends, or other connections).
 - **Contact tracing** occurs within 24-48 hours, but may be shorter or longer depending on the specific case circumstances.
 - **Contact tracing** helps people get diagnosed earlier and reduces the chance of spreading the virus.

Terminology

- **Exposure:** a single person with a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 who attended school during their infectious period.
- **Cluster:** 2 or more individuals with lab confirmed COVID-19 infection who attended school during their infectious period. The cases may be linked to school-based transmission.
- **Outbreak:** multiple individuals with lab confirmed COVID-19 Infections. Transmission may be widespread within the school setting.

What might Interior Health recommend?

- **Self-Monitor:** daily monitoring for symptoms using the daily health check and online assessment tool. Students and staff can continue to attend school unless told by Public health to self-isolate.
- **Self-Isolate:** required when someone was exposed directly to a confirmed positive case. Requires 14 days of isolation from when the potential exposure happened.

Notifications

- If your child's school receives a notification of exposure:
 - The notification **does not** mean your child has been exposed to COVID-19.
 - Exposure alerts are a general notice that someone at the school has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - If you **do not** receive a phone call or letter from Interior Health advising your child to **self-isolate** then your child should continue to attend school.
 - You can monitor your child for COVID-19 symptoms daily using the BC Health Assessment tool online and/or the daily health checks in the SD22 Pandemic Response Plan and Exposure Control Plan (available on the SD22 website).

Questions...

Will curriculum or classes be affected?

- No, our schools are sufficiently staffed to ensure the continuity of instruction.

What is SD22 doing to ensure my child's safety?

- Our schools and District are following the guidance provided by Public Health officials and detailed in our Pandemic Response and Exposure Control Plan. We will continue to work with public health officials to determine if any other actions are necessary and update our plans as required.
- Our safety plans are available on the SD22 website and detail strategies to limit the spread of COVID-19 including:
 - *Reducing the number of in person, close interactions staff and students have in a day through set cohort learning groups and physical distancing.*
 - *Increased hand washing/hand sanitizing frequency.*
 - *Masks worn in high traffic areas where distancing can't be maintained.*
 - *A rigorous cleaning and disinfecting plan including: general cleaning and disinfecting of the premises once every 24 hours; and cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces at least twice every 24 hours.*
- We continue to stress the importance of screening for symptoms on a daily basis before staff and students enter the school (daily health checks are in our Pandemic Response Plan and online through the online health assessment tool).

Why can Interior Health and SD22 not share more information with the public following a COVID-19 confirmed case in schools?

- For privacy reasons we cannot share personal information and details related to a case.
- Public health maintains the confirmed case's privacy. An individual who is a confirmed case can choose to tell others about their diagnosis but should not do their own contact tracing.

If someone in my house is told to self-isolate does everyone in the household need to also self-isolate?

- Unless advised by Interior Health, other family members who were not asked to self isolate can attend school and should self monitor for symptoms using the online self-assessment tool and daily health check form.

If you have further questions

- Review the SD22 Pandemic Response Plan and Exposure Control Plan online.
- Ask your school Principal if you have any questions.
- Call 811 or contact your family health care provider.

How is a close contact determined?

- Not every contact needs to be identified: only those who could have been exposed to the case's respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing or speaking.
- Close contacts are individuals who were within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more.
- Only Interior Health staff are able to determine close contacts through the contact tracing process.