



**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)**

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Stephen McNiven, B.Ed., M.A., Superintendent of Schools
Barbara Ross, C.P.A., C.G.A., Secretary Treasurer

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161, Fax: (250) 378-6263

October 12, 2020

Dear Families,

RE: School Community Member Tested Positive for COVID-19

A member of the Merritt side of the School District community has tested positive for COVID-19. They are self-isolating at home with support from local public health teams. We can also confirm that at this time **students were not exposed.**

As per protocol we supported Interior Health as they undertook contact tracing to determine if any other members of our School District community were in contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19, and if any additional steps were required. The following protocol is in place for these circumstances:

- Interior Health performs [contact tracing](#);
- Interior Health determines if anyone in the school community was in contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 while they were potentially infectious;
- Interior Health determines if anyone in the school community is a close contact that is required to [self-isolate](#).

Only the Health Authority can determine who is a close contact.

To ensure personal privacy rights are maintained, we will not be providing additional details.

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

Students should continue to come to school. As a reminder, please continue daily health checks to monitor your child for illness.

We will continue to work closely with the Interior Health Authority to provide ongoing communication as required. It is our hope that all members of our community stay healthy and that anyone not well gets better as soon as possible.

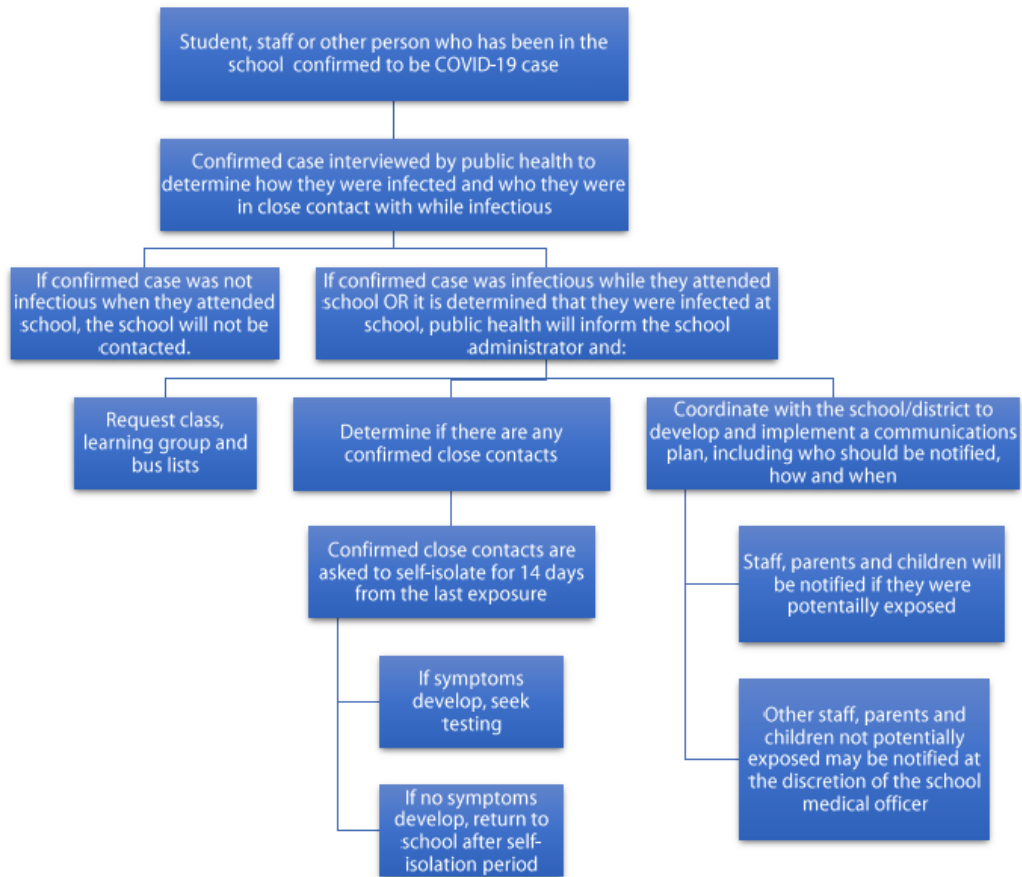
If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19, please call 811.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. McNiven', is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen McNiven
Superintendent of Schools

Figure A: Public Health Actions in Response to Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in a School



Confirmed close contacts are determined based on the length of time of exposure and nature of the interaction. **Only public health can determine who is a close contact.**

*This chart above is located in the “COVID-19 Protocols for School and District Administrators” document - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/covid-19-protocols-for-administrators.pdf> These protocols were created by the Ministry of Education, The Ministry of Health and the BC Centre for Disease Control.