



Jan. 19, 2021

Dear parents and students of the Merritt school community,

As many of you are aware, there are COVID-19 cases linked to your school community. We understand that this has triggered anxiety among students and parents, particularly given the potential exposures have affected students and staff.

We can confirm that an extremely small number of the local school community has contracted COVID-19. As a consequence of the potential COVID-19 exposures, a number of students and staff have been asked to self-isolate.

These exposures are not unexpected and are a reflection of what we are seeing in the community.

Although the number of school cases and potential exposures affects a small proportion of the school community, we take each and every case of COVID-19 seriously. We would like to strongly remind students and staff to stick to cohorts and avoid socializing outside the school. This will prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the school community.

School safety plans have been effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Transmission of COVID-19 at this school, if any, has been minimal.

Please be assured Interior Health and school administration are working together to ensure the school remains a safe place. The safety of students and staff are our utmost priority.

We appreciate the whole community's support in helping students and families to work together with us to ensure all students are able to remain in class.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Parker

Interior Health, Medical Health Officer