



**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

January 22, 2021

Dear Families,

**RE: Merritt Bench Elementary Community Member Tested Positive for COVID-19 School Exposure: Jan 18, 2021**

A member of the Merritt Bench Elementary community has tested positive for COVID-19. They are self-isolating at home with support from local public health teams.

We supported Interior Health Authority during the contact tracing process to determine if any other members of our Merritt Bench Elementary community were in contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19, and if any additional steps were required. We followed the protocol established for these circumstances:

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

Only the health authority can determine who is a close contact.

If you were contacted by Interior Health Authority, please follow their advice.

If you have not been contacted by Interior Health Authority, it has been determined that your child is not at risk of developing COVID-19.

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 Merritt Bench Elementary 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.

Our regular processes of cleaning and sanitization continue diligently to ensure that our physical spaces are ready for all students and staff.

Contact tracing is complete and 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 Interior Health Authority to provide ongoing communication as required.

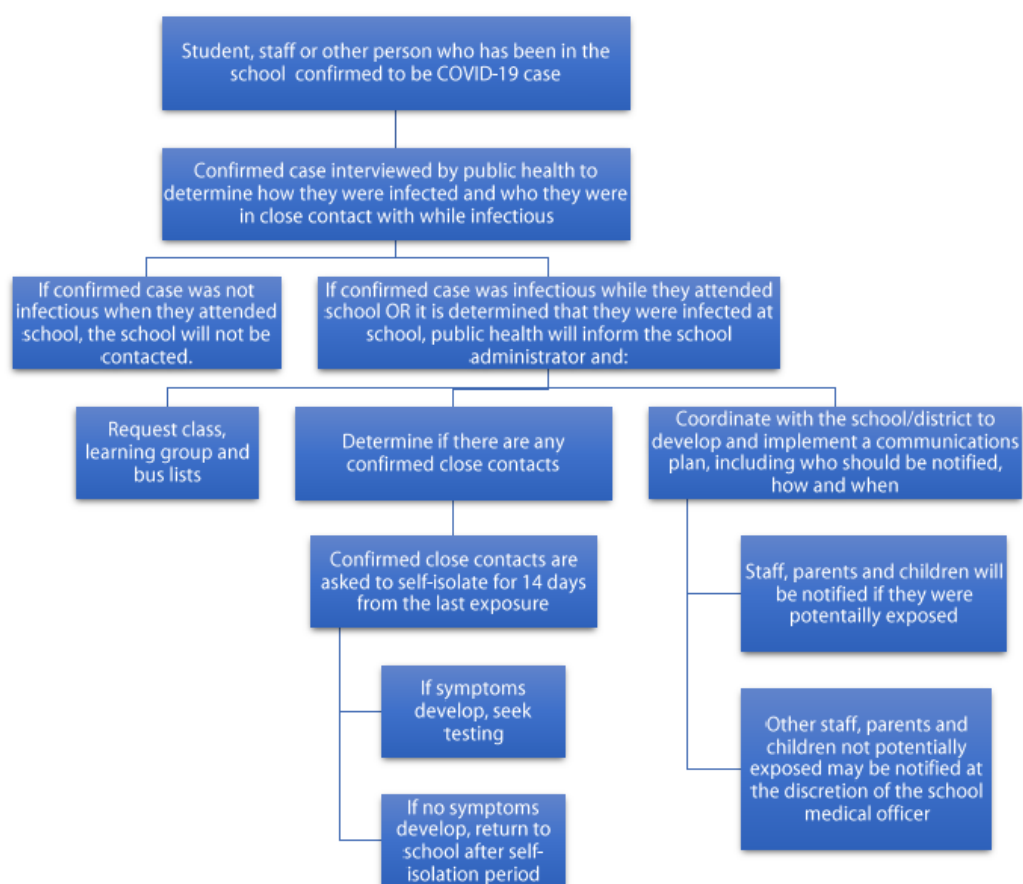
If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19, please call 811.

Sincerely,

Stephen McNiven  
Superintendent of Schools

*Success for ALL Learners ~ Today and Tomorrow*

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>