



**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 12, 2021

Dear Families,

RE: Merritt Secondary School Member Tested Positive for COVID-19 School Exposure: Jan 6 & 7, 2021

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

We are supporting Interior Health Authority as they undertake contact tracing to determine if any other members of our school community were in contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19, and if any additional steps are required. We are following the protocol established for these circumstances:

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

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

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

If you are not 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.

As the Pandemic continues, we will continue to refine our communication with you. The school is currently deep cleaning all spaces every evening with a contact spray sanitizer.

The safety and well-being of our students, families and staff remains our highest priority. Please be reassured that our schools 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. We continue to have close and regular contact with Interior Health around any cases, contacts or transmissions.

Students should continue to come to school while contact tracing is underway. 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.

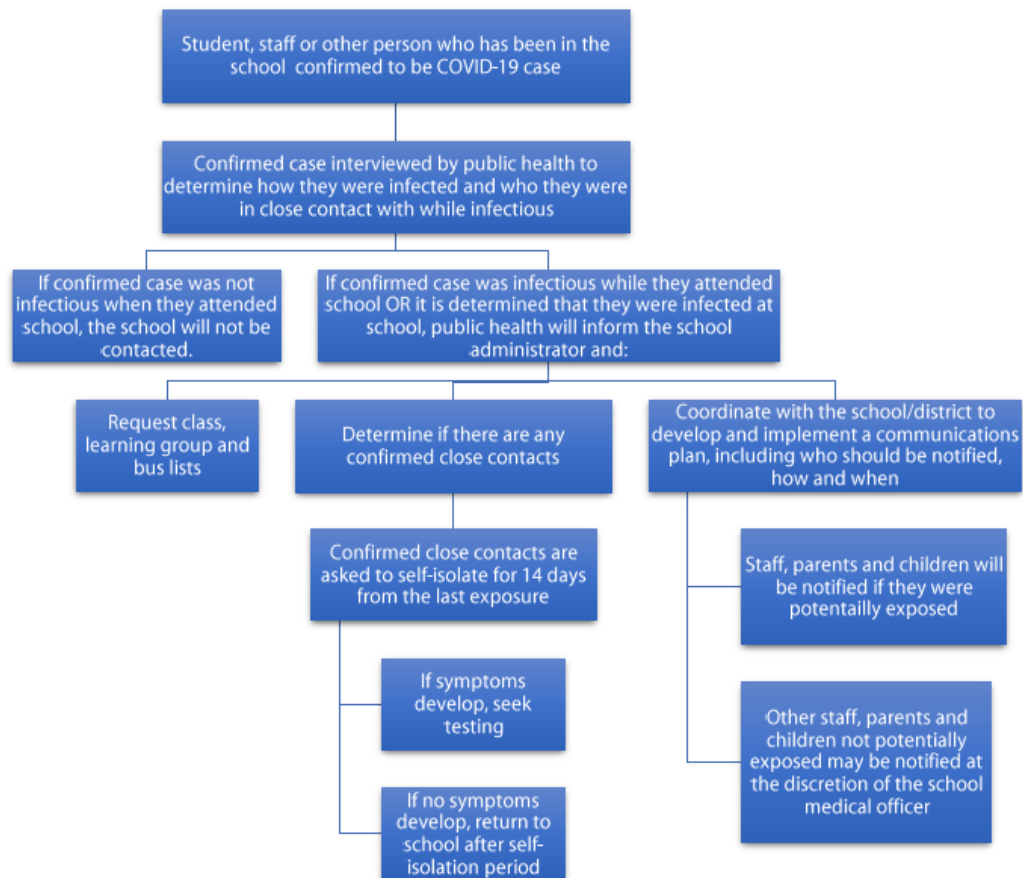
If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19, please call 811.

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>