

## 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

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May 22, 2021

Dear Families,

## RE: Merritt Secondary School Community Member Tested Positive for COVID-19 School Exposure: May 18 & 19

A 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 supported Interior Health Authority during the contact tracing process to determine if any other members of our Merritt Secondary 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 Secondary 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 Secondary Elementary community is a close contact that is required to <a href="self-isolate">self-isolate</a>.

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 Secondary 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

Student, staff or other person who has been in the school confirmed to be COVID-19 case Confirmed case interviewed by public health to determine how they were infected and who they were in close contact with while infectious If confirmed case was not If confirmed case was infectious while they attended school OR it is determined that they were infected at nfectious when they attended school, the school will not be school, public health will inform the school contacted. Coordinate with the school/district to Request class, Determine if there are any learning group and bus lists develop and implement a communications confirmed close contacts plan, including who should be notified, how and when Confirmed close contacts are Staff, parents and children will asked to self-isolate for 14 days be notified if they were potentailly exposed from the last exposure

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.** 

If symptoms develop, seek

testing

If no symptoms

develop, return to school after selfisolation period Other staff, parents and

children not potentially exposed may be notified at the discretion of the school

medical officer

<sup>\*</sup>This chart above is located in the **"COVID-19 Protocols for School and District Administrators"** document - <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/covid-19-protocols-for-administrators.pdf">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/covid-19-protocols-for-administrators.pdf</a>