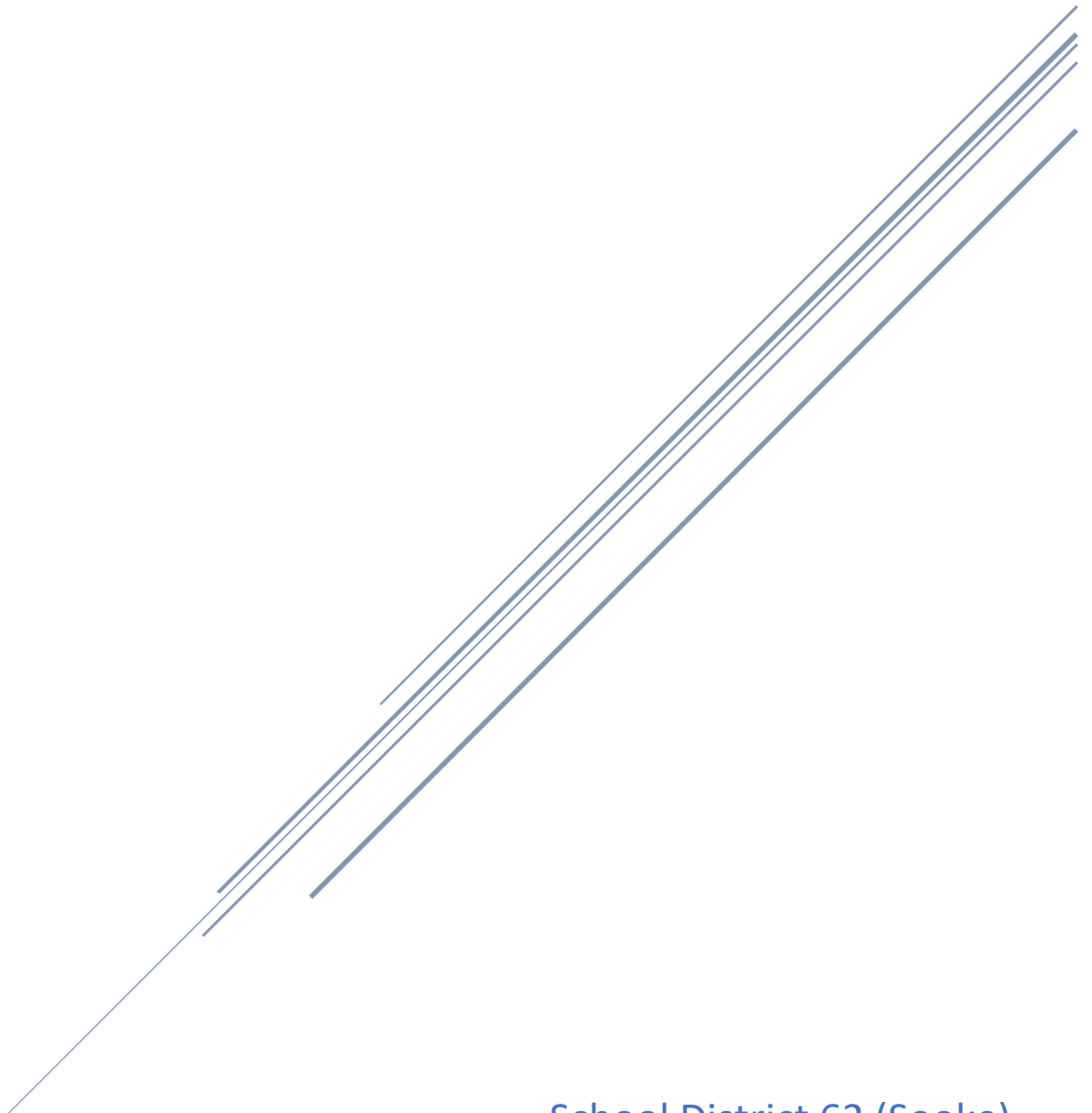


SD62 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION PLAN FOR PARENTS

October 1, 2021



School District 62 (Sooke)

SD62 Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

Purpose

The intent of the Communicable Disease Prevention Plan is to inform School District #62 Sooke (SD62) staff regarding the Operations and Health & Safety processes for SD 62 sites to prevent transmission of communicable disease(s) (e.g. COVID-19).

Background - COVID-19

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
 - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- There is little high-quality evidence to suggest that having schools open meaningfully contributes to community transmission.
- Widespread asymptomatic transmission is not commonly occurring within schools.
- Most children are not at high risk for COVID-19. If they do get COVID-19, most children will have mild symptoms, or they may have no symptoms at all (“asymptomatic”).
- COVID-19 cases in schools reflected the number of cases in their communities. Most cases of COVID-19 among students and staff were acquired outside of school, in their community or household (BC CDC, Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, October 1, 2021).

Transmission Mitigation Strategies

- Daily Health Checks for Staff and Students before entering any SD62 site.
- The consistent practice of good respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene.
- No sharing of food.
- Follow the guidelines from the Health Minister and Self-Isolate, when required.
- Do not share food (e.g. fruit trays, deli trays, etc.).
- No skin to skin contact with others (handshaking, hugging, etc.).
- Avoid touching your face with your hands.
- All staff are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses.
- All students Grades K to 12 are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a nonmedical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses.

Space Arrangements

Below are strategies that schools can consider to help create space between people:

- Remind students and staff about respecting others personal space. Use visual supports, signage, prompts, video modelling, etc. as necessary.
- Use available space to spread people out, both in learning environments and for gatherings and events, where possible.
- Stagger recess/snack, lunch and class transition times to provide a greater amount of space for everyone, as able.
- Take students outside more often, where and when possible.

Work Environment

The following are considerations for classrooms and other SD62 buildings,

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- At this time, there is no evidence that a building’s ventilation system, in good operating condition, would contribute to the spread of the virus. Good indoor air ventilation alone cannot protect people from exposure to COVID-19; however, it may reduce risk when used in addition to other preventive measures (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).
 - As per WorkSafeBC legislative requirements (*OHSR 4.79*) if air quality concerns are brought forward, they will be investigated accordingly.
 - Where possible, opening windows if weather permits and HVAC system function will not be negatively impacted (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021). Please note, ventilation systems in good operation do not require windows and doors to be open.
- It is recommended to use consistent or assigned seating arrangements where practical, to aid in contact tracing.
- Hand wash stations will have liquid soap (NO bar soap) and paper towel.
 - If no handwashing sink is located in the classroom, students will have access to designated handwashing stations, washrooms or hand sanitizer dispensers.
- Gatherings and Events:
 - School gatherings and events (including inter-school events) can occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders.
 - The PHO Gathering and Events Order does not apply to workers engaged in work activities (including staff meetings) or to students and teachers at school engaged in educational activities.
 - The PHO Gathering and Events Order does apply to social events at schools such as parties, celebrations and performances.
 - Use space available to spread people out as much as possible, respecting room occupancy limits, and ensuring enough space is available to prevent involuntarily physical contact between attendees (i.e. overcrowding).
 - Examinations or assessments are not considered school gatherings, however they must still be delivered in accordance with the Communicable Disease Prevention Plan outlined in this document (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).
 - Organizers should apply a trauma-informed lens to their planning, including consideration of:
 - Respecting student and staff comfort levels regarding personal space and
 - Gradual transitions to larger gatherings (e.g. school-wide assemblies), including starting with virtual or smaller in-person options, shorter in-person sessions, etc.
- Staff and students can continue to bring personal items to school, but they should be encouraged to not share items that come in contact with the mouth (e.g. food, drinks, unwashed utensils, wind instruments).
- Students can continue to use their lockers, as it is better for personal items to be stored in a locker than to be stored in classrooms or carried throughout the school (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).

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- There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. Laminated or glossy paper-based products (e.g. children's book or magazines) and items with plastic covers (e.g. DVDs) can be contaminated if handled by a person with COVID-19; however, the risk is low. There is no need for these items to be cleaned and disinfected or quarantined for any period of time, or for hand hygiene to be practiced before or after use (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).
- Schools can use all spaces in alignment with the protocols outlined in this document.
- Do not restrict access to water, washrooms or other spaces that support student learning and well-being (e.g. gymnasiums, libraries, support rooms, etc.).
 - Limiting access to water fountains is no longer recommended. Hand hygiene should be practiced before and after use (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).

Programs and Activities

All curriculum, programs and activities should operate in alignment with Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, including school-led activities held off campus (e.g. sports academies, community-based programs/courses) (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).

Fundraising

Schools can continue to offer fundraisers that can be implemented in line with guidelines outlined in this document. If the fundraisers involve the sale of food items, they should also align with the [Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools](#) (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021). **Schools should consult with their Family Associate Superintendent before undertaking fundraising activities.**

Playgrounds

There is no current evidence of COVID-19 transmission in playground environments. Playgrounds are a safe environment. The following measures should be taken when using playgrounds:

- Ensure appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play
- Attempt to minimize unintentional physical contact between students.
- Sand and water can be used for play if children wash their hands before and after play. COVID-19 does not survive well on surfaces, other than hard surfaces. There is no evidence showing that the virus survives on sand, in water or on playdough (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).

Extra-Curricular Activities

Intra- and inter-school extracurricular activities and special interest clubs can occur in alignment with the guidelines in this document and requirements of relevant local, regional and provincial public health recommendations and Orders for community gatherings and events (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).

Field Trips

When planning field trips, staff should follow existing policies and procedures as well as the guidance in this document. Additional measures specific to field trips should be taken, including:

- For transportation, including school bus transportation, public transit and carpooling, see guidance in the transportation section in this document.
- Schools must ensure that volunteers providing supervision are trained in and strictly adhere to required Communicable Disease Prevention Plan.
- Alignment with relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders, including for international travel.

Student Transportation

Buses

- Students in Grades K to 12 are required to wear non-medical masks or face coverings when they are on the bus.
 - Non-medical masks or face coverings should be put on before loading.
- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school (see APPENDIX A). If a child is sick, they must not take the bus or go to school.
- Students should clean their hands before and after taking the bus.

Carpooling

For carpooling related to school activities, students, staff and other adults must follow the mask requirements outlined in the Personal Protective Equipment section of this document (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).

Hand Hygiene

Follow these guidelines to ensure effective hand hygiene in schools:

- Practice diligent hand hygiene by washing hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds (temperature does not change the effectiveness of washing hands with plain soap and water) (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).
- Facilitate regular opportunities for students to practice hand hygiene:
 - Portable hand-washing sites and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers containing at least 60% alcohol, will be used where sinks are not available.

Handwashing is required for students,

- When they arrive at school.
- Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).
- Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk or locker).
- Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes with shared equipment.
- After using the toilet.
- After sneezing or coughing into hands.
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty.

Illness and Self Assessment Process**Daily Health Check**

Students should stay at home when sick, as this is one of the most important ways to reduce the introduction to and the spread of COVID-19 in schools. The daily health check is a tool to reduce the likelihood of a person with COVID-19 coming to school when they are infectious.

- Parents and caregivers should assess their children daily for illness before sending them to school as per Appendix A.
 - Parents/caregivers and students can utilize the provincial [K-12 Health Check app](#) for daily assessment of symptoms.
- If a student is sick, they must not enter the school, as per the Daily Health Check (Appendix A).
- Parents/caregivers can call 8-1-1 or their health care provider for guidance on symptoms.

If a student becomes ill while on site:

If a student develops symptoms at school/site, the schools/site should:

- Provide the student with a non-medical mask if they do not have one (exceptions should be made for students and staff who cannot wear masks for medical and/or disability-related reasons).
- Notify their site-manager or principal/vice-principal.
- Parents/guardians must be notified and advised to pick-up the child immediately.
- Schools should have a space available where a staff can wait comfortably and is separated from others (at least 2m).
- Schools must provide supervision for younger children.

Site-Specific Building Access Protocol:

- Visitor or contractors should book an appointment to access the site, the site-manager or principal/vice-principal must ensure the visit is logged in the "[Visitors Check-in](#)" site.
 - Where possible, parents/caregivers should be encouraged to drop-off/pick-up students outside of the school.
 - All visitors or contractors must confirm they have completed the Daily Health Check (Appendix A) for illness before visiting the site (WorkSafeBC, February, 2021).
 - Adult visitors must wear a non-medical mask when inside the site/school.
 - Where possible, visitors access should be limited to those areas required for the purpose of the visits.
 - Site-manager or principal/vice-principal must ensure that visitor and contractors are aware of the Communicable Disease Prevention Plan and requirements prior to entering the school.
 - For example, avoid crowding and wear a non-medical mask at all times when inside the school/site (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- All staff are required to wear a non-medical mask or a face shield (in which case a mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses.
- All students Grades K to 12 are required to wear a non-medical mask or a face shield (in which case a nonmedical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses.

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- **Mask exceptions for staff, students and visitors:**
 - The guidance outlined above regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstances:
 - To a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
 - To a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
 - If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
 - If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
 - If a person is eating or drinking;
 - If a person is behind a barrier; or
 - While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important, a mask with a transparent section may be worn (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021). The mask must cover the mouth and nose (BC CDC, Feb. 4, 2021).
- Schools/sites must not require a health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor's note) to confirm if a staff, students or visitors cannot wear a mask (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).
- Staff should utilize positive and inclusive approaches to engage students in the use of masks, and should not employ measures that are punitive or stigmatizing in nature. No student should be prevented from attending or fully participating at school if they do not wear a mask. (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- General cleaning of the premises, and cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, at least once per 24-hour period.
- Frequently touched surfaces include,
 - Items used by larger numbers of students and staff, including doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, water fountains, faucet handles, toilet handles.
 - Shared equipment (e.g. computer keyboards and tablets, glassware and testing equipment for science labs, kitchen equipment for culinary programs, sewing machines and sewing equipment for home economic programs, PHE/sports equipment, music equipment, etc.)
 - Appliances (staff and students can share the use of appliances and other objects, but treat items like microwaves, refrigerators, coffee pots, photocopiers or laminators as frequently touched surfaces)
 - Service counters (e.g., office service window, library circulation desk)
- Shared equipment should be cleaned and disinfected as per Cleaning and Disinfecting guidelines and students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after music equipment use.

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- Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g. instrument mouth pieces) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses.
- Frequently-touched items like toys or manipulatives that may not be able to be cleaned often (e.g. fabrics) or at all (e.g. sand, foam, playdough, etc.) can be used, if hand hygiene is practiced before and after use. Carpets and rugs (e.g. in Kindergarten and StrongStart classes) can also be used.
- The requirements for daily cleaning and disinfecting outlined above do not apply to spaces/equipment that are not being used by students, staff or visitors (Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021).
- Building access protocols will be followed to ensure custodial staff are aware of areas that have been occupied for cleaning and disinfecting purposes.

Behaviour Support Plans, Personal Care Plans and Worker Safety Plans

Student plans to support specific needs are reviewed on a case-by-case to determine levels of support required to safely bring students into the school environment. Any support plans will be provided to the Principal/Vice-Principal.

References

Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021.

[Attachment 3 - Provincial COVID-19 Health Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings November 17 2020 - DRAFT \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

BC CDC, Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools, October 1, 2021.

[Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf \(bccdc.ca\)](#)

Appendix A – Daily Health Check – Parents/Guardians

Daily Health Check				
1. Key Symptoms If yes to 1 or more: Stay home. -Contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.	Does your child have any of the following symptoms?		Circle One	
	Fever higher than 38 °C		Yes	No
	Chills		Yes	No
	Cough		Yes	No
	Loss of sense of smell or taste		Yes	No
	Difficulty Breathing		Yes	No
2. Secondary Symptoms -If yes to 1: Stay home until you feel better. -If yes to 2 or more: Stay home for 24 hours. -If symptoms don't get better or get worse; contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.	Sore Throat		Yes	No
	Loss of Appetite		Yes	No
	Extreme Fatigue or tiredness		Yes	No
	Headache		Yes	No
	Body Aches		Yes	No
	Nausea and vomiting		Yes	No
	Diarrhea		Yes	No
3. International Travel -If yes*: See below.	Have you returned from travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days?		Yes*	No
4. Confirmed Contact -If yes: Follow Public Health advice.	Are you a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?		Yes	No

*If yes: Fully vaccinated students who have travelled outside of Canada may qualify for the [fully vaccinated traveller exemption](#). Students who are not [fully vaccinated](#) and have travelled outside of Canada CANNOT attend school for 14 days after arrival, as part of [federal requirements](#).

Please note, [K-12 Health Check app](#) can be used to complete the daily health check.

If you have any **concerns** or **questions** about your health, you may contact 8-1-1 at any time.

If a COVID-19 test is not recommended by the health assessment, the child can return to school when symptoms improve and they feel well enough. Testing may not be recommended if the assessment determines that the symptoms are due to another cause (i.e. not COVID-19).

A health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor's note) should not be required to confirm the health status of any individual.

PARENTS CONSENT OF UNDERSTANDING:

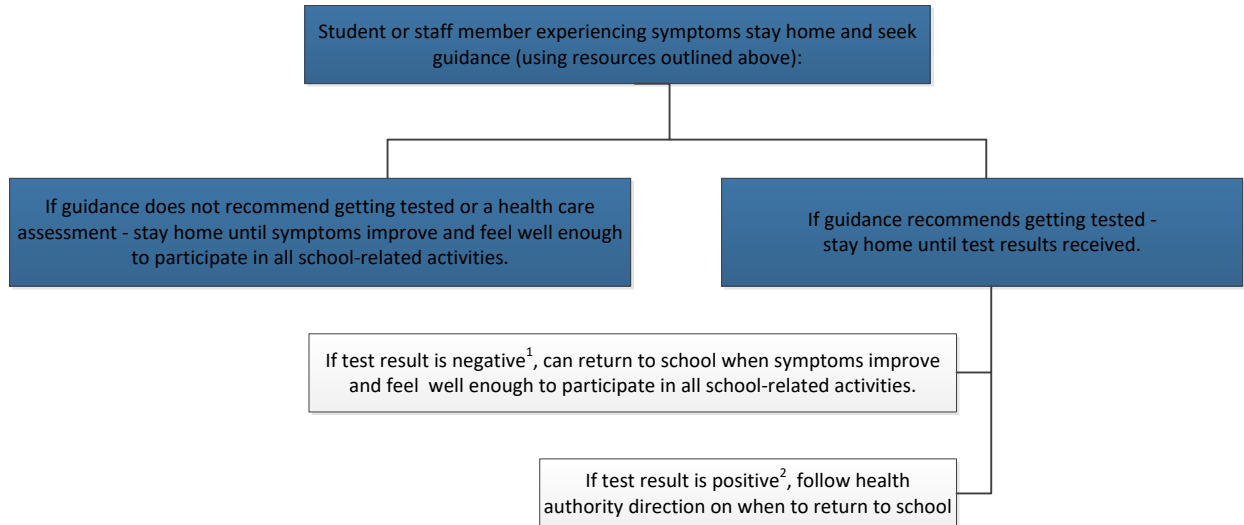
I have read and reviewed the Daily Health Check and understand I must complete this daily for my child before they arrive on-site. I will review this checklist daily when assessing my child.

Once you have reviewed this document, please consent as per school's process confirming that you understand this and that you will assess your child daily for symptoms.

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COVID-19 Symptoms, Testing & Return to School

When a student, staff or other adult can return to school depends on the type of symptoms they experienced and if a COVID-19 test is recommended. See the [K-12 Health Check app](#) and BCCDC “[When to get tested for COVID-19](#)” resource for specific guidance. Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online [Self-Assessment Tool](#), or call 8-1-1 or their health care provider.



1. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more. Re-testing is not needed unless the person develops a new illness. [BCCDC](#) has information on receiving negative test results.

2. Public health will contact everyone with a positive test. Visit the [BCCDC website](#) for more information on [positive test results](#).

Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, October 1, 2021