



November 24, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Re: COVID-19 Information Bulletin

With four weeks left until Winter break, I wanted to share important information with students and families to ensure we all stay healthy and safe in this final stretch of 2020. But first, I want to thank everyone, including students, staff, and the school community, for your commitment to following our protocols and modelling good behaviour. We continue to work our way through the pandemic because of your ongoing support.

### Where We Are Now? COVID-19 School Exposures

We know this has been an extremely challenging time for the education system. We acknowledge that many of you may be anxious, which is understandable. As you know, we have had confirmed cases of COVID-19 in some of our schools. As directed by Fraser Health, we have sent a number of Early Notification letters to students, staff, and families in the community to alert them of a confirmed case. We have assisted Fraser Health in providing important information to support them in carrying on the critical work of contact tracing. We are committed to being accurate, timely, transparent, but also protecting privacy in our communications to families.

From the moment Fraser Health informs the District about a case, a series of communications protocols are activated beginning with informing:

Partner Groups (unions) > School Staff > Students/Families > and the Langley Community (via websites/social media/local media)

We generally wait to share information with the Langley community for a few hours to give the impacted students and families time to read their emails, as opposed to finding out on social media or the news. We do our best to prepare our administrators and staff to help answer your questions when school exposures take place. At any point, questions can also be directed to the District by emailing: [feedback@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:feedback@sd35.bc.ca).

### Why is it taking so long to find out about COVID-19 in my child's school?

This is one of the main questions we receive in regard to the length of time from the date of exposure to when families receive the Early Notification letter. Below is an example to help explain why this process takes time:

Day 1	A student attends school as they are feeling well.
Day 2	The student starts to feel unwell and so stays home from school.
Day 3-4	A day or two later, the student has enough symptoms that their family takes them for a COVID-19 test.
Days 5-7	The student self-isolates while waiting for their test result (generally 1-3 days).

Days 6+	<p>If the student tests positive and Fraser Health believes they were potentially infectious while at school, Fraser Health will contact the student's close contacts (those who could have been exposed to the student's respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing or speaking) and ask them to self-isolate. Fraser Health will contact the school district to ask us to send an Early Notification letter out to all staff and families at the school.</p> <p>If the student tests positive and Fraser Health believes they weren't potentially infectious while at school, we won't hear from Fraser Health. This is why the local community may sometimes hear that a student has tested positive, yet no letter is sent out.</p>
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I want to remind the community, that we take our lead from Fraser Health and trust their expertise. We are confident in the process and will continue to collaborate with their staff in communicating public health matters.

### *Where are we heading? Preparing for Unexpected Changes to Learning*

The public health landscape is changing due to rising COVID-19 cases in our community. As a District, we want to ensure we are all prepared for unexpected directives from Fraser Health or the Ministry of Education.

This may include the following scenarios which could impact learning:

- Fraser Health ordering a student/teacher/staff to self-isolate due to a school exposure
- Fraser Health ordering a class to self-isolate due to a school exposure
- Fraser Health ordering a cohort to self-isolate due to a school exposure
- Fraser Health ordering a school closure due to an outbreak
- Functional school closure decided by the District due to staffing shortages
- Provincial Health Office ordering a shift to another stage in the [Five Stages Framework](#)

We are learning from our colleagues in neighbouring districts who are experiencing class and school closures. We are mindful of this potential in our District and want to be prepared to respond accordingly. As we head closer to Winter break, we also want to be ready for potential delays to the return to school in January which are beyond our control. At this point, while these measures only remain a possibility, we are doing our best to be proactive and will continue to update the community as information is made available.

### *What do we need to do? Preparing for Potential Remote Learning*

The District is encouraging students and families to get prepared for the possibility of remote learning. As outlined above, and seen in other school districts, students may need to continue learning at home. Our intention is to ensure our students are well equipped and prepared in the event this happens. Our school administrators and staff are planning for this and will be prepared to communicate any information specific to your school.

In the meantime, please do the following:

- Be prepared for remote learning at any point
- Continue to read emails and newsletters from school/teachers and follow instructions
- Gather personal learning materials which may be helpful for at-home learning

### What do we need to do? Continue Following Health and Safety Protocols

The District is encouraging students and families to continue everything you are doing in relation to following our health and safety protocols.

While at school, please encourage your child to continue to:

- Wash hands
- Maintain physical distance from others
- Wear a mask when in common areas or when unable to maintain physical distance (Gr 4-12)

While outside of school, parents/guardians please continue to:

- Conduct the daily health check and keep children who are sick at home
- Wear a mask and maintain physical distance from others at pick-up and drop-off
- Model health and safety best practices as directed by Dr. Bonnie Henry

### Moving Forward

As always, health and safety are our priority. As has been the case since March, our District and school staff will continue to work behind the scenes to address food security, mental health and wellness, or any other supports needed to mitigate impacts COVID-19 has had on our families.

I want to close on a positive note, as a system we have a lot to celebrate. Our in-person learners are finding ways to be successful in this new normal. Our Transition Support Model students are also learning and thriving remotely at home. Our Distributed Learning students are being afforded opportunities like never before thanks to a robust and growing program. We know this is a tough time but, as a system there is a lot to be grateful for. We look forward to continuing our relationship with students and their families, listening and working with all of you to do what's best for our students.

Sincerely,



Gord Stewart  
Superintendent of Schools

Cette notification est importante. S'il vous plaît demandez à quelqu'un pour la traduire afin d'être bien informé(e) à propos de l'école.

فہم ڈیملہ نام فہم تمام اول جم علی ج یوتحت اہتال نولکی ام عوسب مجرتت نہ ویرن اہم فہم فطرح الم ہذہ

这是一个很重要的通知。请找人翻译它的内容，这样你就可以及时知道学校的情况。

ਇਹ ਇੱਕ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਹੈ। ਕੋਈ ਆ ਕਰਕੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਪਾਸੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾ ਲਓ ਤਾਂ ਕੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਸਭਲ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕੇ।

이것은 중요한 공지사항입니다. 이것을 번역할 수 있는 분에게 부탁해서 여러분이 학교에서 공지하는 것에 대하여 정확하게 인지할 수 있기 바랍니다.

Đây là một thông báo quan trọng. Xin vui lòng nhờ người dịch để bạn có thể biết thêm những thông tin về trường học.

Este es un aviso importante. Por favor consiga que alguien se lo traduzca para que usted pueda mantenerse bien informado sobre la información de su escuela.

Ito ay isang mahalagang notisya. Mangyari po lamang ay magkaroon ng taong tagasalin ng wika upang ikaw ay maging batid tungkol sa impormasyon ng paaralan.