

September 17, 2021

## School Protocol When Student/Staff Tests Positive for COVID-19

**The purpose of this document is to help schools and parents/guardians understand:**

1. What will **public health** do if a student/staff tests positive for COVID-19?
2. What will **the school** do if a student/staff tests positive for COVID-19?

**It also answers the following questions:**

3. What type of information will the school be asked to provide if a staff/student tests positive?
4. What type of information will public health provide the school if a staff/student tests positive?

## School Protocol When Student/Staff Tests Positive for COVID-19

Student or staff tests positive for COVID-19



The Health Unit contacts the staff, student (or guardian) to determine whether there was risk of transmission at school.



The Health Unit will inform school board and school principal about positive case, no matter if they were in attendance or not during their infectious period. If the individual who tested positive did not attend school during their infectious period, there is no risk to other students/staff or the public beyond the general community risk. The Health Unit will provide only general information about the school case. School may choose to communicate to school community as FYI only.



If the individual who tested positive did attend school during infectious period, there is the potential for risk of exposure at school and the below steps will proceed. \*Personal health information may be disclosed to schools only for contact tracing purposes. The identity of the case should not be disclosed publicly to parents, or to other students.

Note: Exposed class cohort(s) may be dismissed if during school day.



School provides/verifies cohort list(s) of student/staff from the exposed cohorts (high-risk contacts).



- Information needed may include:
- Attendance records
  - Class/cohort lists and contact info for affected students/staff
  - Before/after school child care lists
  - Transportation status
  - Special programs/activities (e.g., Special Education)
  - Records of essential visitors/sign-in or visitor logs



The Health Unit will provide resources (e.g., letters, scripts) for schools to communicate with students/parents/guardians about details for high-risk contacts and guidance on self-isolation, testing, return to school and direction for household members.



The Health Unit will provide information for school staff to self-assess. The Health Unit will **not** individually call school staff.



The Health Unit will inform principal of which students/staff are **eligible to return to school without the need to self-isolate\***. **School will contact these students with information about return to school.** The Health Unit will provide school with recommendations for infection prevention and control measures (if applicable).



- The Health Unit will determine who is eligible to return based on:
- Fully vaccinated; OR
  - Previously tested positive for COVID-19 in last 90 days
  - AND able to pass the screening tool

**\*Note:** Personal health information may be disclosed to schools only for contact tracing. Schools have an obligation to protect the personal information of their students. Schools are not to disclose the identity of the case except to those other school board employees who require it as part of their job function. The identity of the case should not be disclosed publicly to parents, or to other students unless deemed necessary by public health or given permission to do so by the case or their guardian.