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# COWICHAN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## - WHAT IS THE PROCESS IF THERE IS A CASE OR SUSPECTED CASE?

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been working closely with Island Health to ensure our Health and Safety guidelines are based on the latest research and information. If a case is suspected or confirmed, we will take direction from Island Health and their Public Health teams. They will determine what level of risk there is and what precautionary measures would be needed. More of this information is in our [Health and Safety Guide](#) and is detailed below:

If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, and were potentially infectious while they were at school:

- Public health will perform an investigation to determine if there were any potential close contacts within the school. (To learn more about contact tracing, visit the [BCCDC website](#).)
  - Students and staff who have interacted with the confirmed case may be asked to stay home by Public Health while they complete their investigation.
- If it is determined that there are close contacts within the school, public health will notify the school administrators to request class and bus lists to assist with contact tracing and provide guidance on what steps should be taken.
- Public health may then:
  - Recommend 14-day isolation if necessary (for confirmed close contacts).
  - Recommend monitoring for symptoms if necessary.
  - Provide follow-up recommendations if necessary.
- Schools must continue to provide learning support to students required to self-isolate.
- Together, schools/school districts and public health officials will determine if any other actions are necessary.

## - IF TRANSMISSION RATES GO UP, WILL SCHOOLS CLOSE AGAIN OR MOVE BACK TO PREVIOUS MODEL LIKE WE DID IN THE SPRING?

This decision will be made by the Ministry of Education in conjunction with the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control and the Dr. Henry, the Provincial Health Officer.

## - WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY CHILD IS SICK?

The first step is to ensure you do not send your child to school. Secondly, depending on your assessment of the illness and whether or not it meets the criteria for a call to Public Health, you may want to consider doing that. From there, Public Health officials will guide you through whatever process you collectively decide on.

## - WILL THE COWICHAN TRIBES BUS FOLLOW THE SAME SAFETY PROTOCOLS AS THE DISTRICT?

Yes.

## - WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ENSURE PARENTS HAVE SELF-ASSESSED PRIOR TO SENDING THEIR KIDS TO SCHOOL?

We have continually messaged that a Daily Self-Assessment **MUST** be done prior to coming on a bus, or attending school (whether a student or staff). Any student or staff member who shows any symptoms of illness will be isolated and, in the case of a student, the parent or guardian will be called to pick them up. In the case of a staff member they will be asked to go home. Ultimately, if you show any signs of COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and get tested. Please use the [BC CDC COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) for guidance.

## WHAT ARE LEARNING GROUPS?

A Learning Group is a cohort of students and staff who stay together through a length of time and primarily interact with one and other. Learning Groups can be a single class, a group of classes, or a group of students who share courses (secondary). They can also include a wide variety of staff, but are consistent in their makeup. Learning Groups allow for schools to maintain a safe and controlled environment, as well as allow for safe social interactions within the group. We created a handy graphic that you can find [HERE](#).