



School District No. 51 (Boundary)

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Website: www.sd51.bc.ca

April 12, 2021

Dear Families of SD51,

As many of you are likely aware, we have had our first confirmed case of COVID-19 in SD51 (Boundary), and so I wanted to reach out to clarify the notification process for families and hopefully alleviate fears that have naturally come out.

General Process for Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in SD51

1. When there is a confirmed case within the school community (which includes all staff and students), or when an individual who may have visited our schools/facilities is a confirmed case, Interior Health will notify the District.
2. Interior Health then does an investigation to identify close contacts of the confirmed case. 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.
3. The investigation will be completed with the help of the confirmed case and the school/District.
4. Once IH has identified individuals who are considered close contacts and may have potentially been exposed to COVID-19, they will send the names to the District. IH will also send direction for communication.
5. Principals and/or School Board Office staff will phone the families of those students identified as close contacts. A letter with information from Interior Health will be emailed to families as well.
6. The District will continue to work with Interior Health to determine if any other action is needed.

Those individuals identified as close contacts do NOT necessarily have COVID-19. IH asks them to self-isolate to mitigate the risk of transmission in case they did contract COVID-19 from the confirmed case.

If you do not receive a phone call from your principal or the School Board Office, your child is not considered a close contact. However, if you feel this has been done in error, phone 811 for direction.

Only those families affected by the confirmed case will receive initial notification, either as part of their school/facility community or because their child has been potentially exposed. To ensure transparency, the District will send a general notice of a confirmed case in the district once the above measures have been completed and will post this notice on our website.

Moving Forward

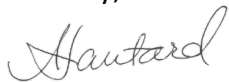
Following the confirmed case from last week, the District is now working with the Interior Health Rapid Response team to review our protocols and safety plan. Our focus continues to be on implementing our [SD51 Health and Safety Guidelines](#) to keep staff and students as safe as possible.

I would like to take this time to remind families that they need to complete the [K-12 Health Check](#) every day before sending their child to school. If your child is sick, they must stay home, and you should follow the guidance of the K-12 Health Check. If you have any further health questions, phone 811.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this difficult time. In particular, thank you for encouraging your children to follow our health and safety guidelines and for following public health orders and guidance. Safe communities mean safe schools.

If you have any further questions, please ask your supervisor or principal.

Sincerely,



Anna Lautard
Acting Superintendent of Schools
SD51 (Boundary)