

Fraser Health COVID-19 School Update – winter 2021

Keep our schools safe for staff and students.

As COVID-19 continues to be a concern, we know many of you have questions about the safety of our schools. It's important to remember that **COVID-19 in schools is a direct reflection of the number of cases in the wider community**. Fraser Health has been supporting schools to manage COVID-19 exposures and is grateful for the commitment schools have made to reduce the risk of COVID-19 by **following health and safety plans**.

While COVID-19 has been challenging for all, **educators and families have shown resilience and adaptability**. Together, we can ensure schools remain a **safe and welcoming place for all**.
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How can I prevent the spread of COVID-19 in schools?



Is it safe for my child to attend school?

Schools have multiple layers of infection prevention and control measures that are put in place by school leadership teams with the support of public health. Examples of these measures include ventilation, cleaning, set-up of classrooms, limiting the number of interactions at school, as well as personal protective measures such as hand hygiene and masking. It is important to remember that school exposures are a reflection of COVID-19 transmission in the community. The more transmission we see in the community, the more likely it is that COVID-19 positive cases will come to school.

What happens if there is a COVID-19 exposure at my school?

In the event there is a confirmed COVID-19 exposure at your school:

The school district, school and parents will be notified that a person confirmed to have COVID-19 attended the school while infectious.

A classroom, learning group or cohort may be asked to self-monitor for signs and symptoms.

Close contacts will be identified by Public Health and asked to self-isolate.

What does it mean if my school receives an Early Exposure Letter from Fraser Health?

If you receive this letter, it means an individual at your school is confirmed to have COVID-19. This letter lets you know that Public Health is aware of this and we are completing our case and contact management. **It does not mean your child is at increased risk of COVID-19.** Please continue to attend school. If through our investigation we identify anyone who was directly exposed and are at increased risk of COVID-19, we will contact you directly soon after you receive the notification letter.

Why can there be so much time between the school exposure dates and receiving an Early Notification Letter?

It is important to understand there will always be a time gap between an early notification and an exposure date. This -2)6(nbe3.9 (asu)2 c.0 Td)6-2)6(nbe3.9 (asu)2e)6-2)6 i.3n)06-2 (c)2a 0tw 45r)9 (e oat)6ou r)6