

What to expect if there is a confirmed case in your school community

Overarching organizing principles of PHO / Health Authority:

- PHO / Health Authority make all of the decisions
- Only those deemed to be a close contact will be contacted
- Monitoring for symptoms is sufficient in most cases
- Medical privacy is a primary determinant of the scope of information sharing
- Schools are safe, given the ministry and district health and safety plans

Our position (articulated in meetings with Provincial Health Office, Vancouver Coastal Health, District Health and Safety Committee, Senior VSB Management, Board meetings, Trustees)

- Medical privacy is important to protect but must be balanced with workers' Right to Know
- Greater transparency is required regarding the process and the information at school sites
- Members are accustomed to treating information sensitively and have information that other individuals or staff may not be aware of regarding a student's contacts. Teachers should be involved in the process to a greater degree.
- Any parent questions or concerns should be referred to the school Administrator

District position:

- VCH drives the bus, district cooperates
- Delays may occur between diagnosis and VCH communication with district / school / staff and families
- If you have not been contacted, you are not at risk
- District and school have health and safety protocols in place to prevent the transmission
- Minimizing speculation about infection in school and community is important
- "The district and school will not share any information beyond the fact that there has been a positive case and that VCH directly notifies anyone who they determine may have been exposed"

Tips that may help

- Bring a motion to Staff Committee about what information should be given to HA if a community case is identified (include non-enrolling staff, itinerant, TTOC, staggered lunches, cohort mixing etc.)
- Bring a motion to Staff Committee regarding staff recommendations on coverage if there is no TTOC available for absences (i.e. that the Administrator be the first option, and if not available, then...)

Sick Leave

- Your sick leave is available for you if you are sick or are too unwell to feel confident in your work.
- You can access up to 5 sick days for a sick family member
- New EI leaves available for workers without access to sick leave

Relevant Links

[COVID-19 Protocols for School and District Administrators – Management of Illness and Confirmed Cases](#)
[Public Health Act](#)

When VCH contacts an Administrator:

The AO will forward class lists, learning groups, staff contacts, attendance lists, visitor logs, contact information, bus lists and other onsite program attendance lists, if applicable

Please ensure:

- Logs of student service is up to date (support staff who have contact with each student, maintain TTOC logs, any contact with itinerant and district staff such as Area Counsellors, SLPs or Teacher Psychologists)
- Itinerant and district staff are included on school communication trees
- Health and Safety information sheets are up to date for TTOCs working at your school site
- Accurate reflection of cohort overlap is noted if applicable
- There is a clear process at your site, should a staff member or student show symptoms during the day

Consider bringing a motion through Staff Committee to advise the AO about matters to be included, should they be contacted about a confirmed case in your school community.

Use your school-based JOHS committee to raise any concerns about the implementation of the district or ministry Health and Safety Plans.

