



# Evergreen School Division

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**November 14, 2020**

Dear Parents /Caregivers:

With confirmed COVID19 cases in our communities, clear information is essential. When anxiety is on the rise, a common understanding of what is expected becomes critical to moving forward together.

To help answer questions that you might have, critical messages from public health are included below.

**1. How is someone determined to be a close contact (of someone who has tested positive for COVID19)?**

Any individual within 2 metres of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more of a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 patient. Note that the two days before showing symptoms are considered part of the infectious period.

**2. What do close contacts need to do?**

Close contacts are required to isolate (quarantine) at home for 14 days from the time of last contact with the person who tested positive. Close contacts are not to attend school/work or be out in the community. Public Health will be in touch with close contacts.

**3. Should family members of close contacts also isolate?**

Only close contacts are required to isolate.

**4. What if a member of the household is a close contact (identified by public health) and begins to show symptoms?**

If a close contact begins to show symptoms, all members of the household should stay home (isolate) and contact public health. It is recommended that people get tested for COVID19 as soon as symptoms appear.

**5. If a member of my household has COVID related symptoms, but we have had no known contact with a confirmed positive case, should we all stay home?**

Now that the province is in critical (red) pandemic response level, this is required. However, exemptions have been made by public health for health care workers, teachers, educational assistants, custodians and school bus drivers, so that you may continue to come to work due to a shortage of essential staff.

**6. Will schools shut down if there is a positive case identified in the school?**

Decisions about school closures are made on a case by case basis by public health.

**7. When do we find out if someone who tests positive was infectious while at school?**

Upon confirmation of a positive case, the school begins working with public health to identify close contacts. On Friday Nov 13th, GHS received the news, worked with public health to identify close contacts, notified those students and their parents, removed them from school, and sent a letter to all GHS families.

**8. Why can't we be told who is positive?**

This is personal health information which is considered private and legally cannot be shared.

**9. How long do close contacts need to isolate?**

Isolation is required for 14 days from the time of last contact with the person who tested positive.

**10. Is it safe to send my child to school now that there has been a case in our school?**

Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Roussin has described schools as safe and as low risk for transmission. The recent Evergreen case was not believed to have been acquired at school.