



December 7, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff and Students,

### **Fraser Health COVID-19 Communication Protocols**

Over the past many weeks, Fraser Health has received questions from parents and schools about exposure notification timelines and feedback regarding how to enhance clarity and timelines in communicating school exposures. Fraser Health has been working hard to improve in these areas and has added resources over the past month to reduce the time between receiving a positive test result from the lab and the associated school receiving an early notification letter.

Previously, when there was a confirmed COVID-19 case in the school community, Fraser Health issued an early exposure letter to the school community followed by a self-monitoring letter to a class/classes or a cohort. In some extreme cases, upon completing the contact tracing process, Fraser Health requested one or more individuals in the school community to self-isolate for a period of time.

Effective December 6, 2020, Fraser Health has changed its communication protocols to ensure greater clarity when someone in the school community has tested positive for COVID-19. Once Fraser Health has received a positive lab result of a student or staff member, **and** they have confirmed they attended school during their infectious period, they will provide the school with three customized early notification letters:

1. **Early Notification – Exposed:** This letter will be sent to parents/guardians of the class/cohort that may have been exposed to the case based on attendance records.
2. **Early Notification – Not Exposed:** This letter will be sent to parents/guardians of students who were not part of the class/cohort where the case was located.
3. **Early Notification – General** (In a minority situation): This letter will be sent to the entire school community where the case is not associated with a specific cohort. This letter informs staff, students, and parents of general school exposure.

Once the contact tracing process is complete for a specific case, Fraser Health will issue a School Bulletin to let the school community know when case and contact management for a **specific case** complete. Parents/Guardians, please continue to inform your school principal if your child has tested positive for COVID-19. In turn, the school district will communicate this information to the COVID-19 school hub to ensure they get this important information so they can triangulate data with the lab and start their communication process.

However, it is essential to understand there will always be a time gap between an early notification and an exposure date. This is because of the time it takes for a person to develop symptoms, realize they are sick, get tested, and receive their results. For this reason, **it is imperative that staff and students are tested as early as possible**, even with mild symptoms. This way, Fraser Health will receive the results sooner and act expediently, which will help us communicate with the school community in a timely manner.

It is key to note that COVID-19 cases at our schools are a direct reflection of community transmissions in Chilliwack. Therefore, it is important that we all follow Public Health advice on reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19 in our community. This includes not hosting or attending parties in private residences, not gathering with anyone beyond your immediate household members, practicing good hand hygiene, physically distancing, wearing a mask in indoor public spaces, getting tested if you have any symptoms, and isolating from others when you are unwell.

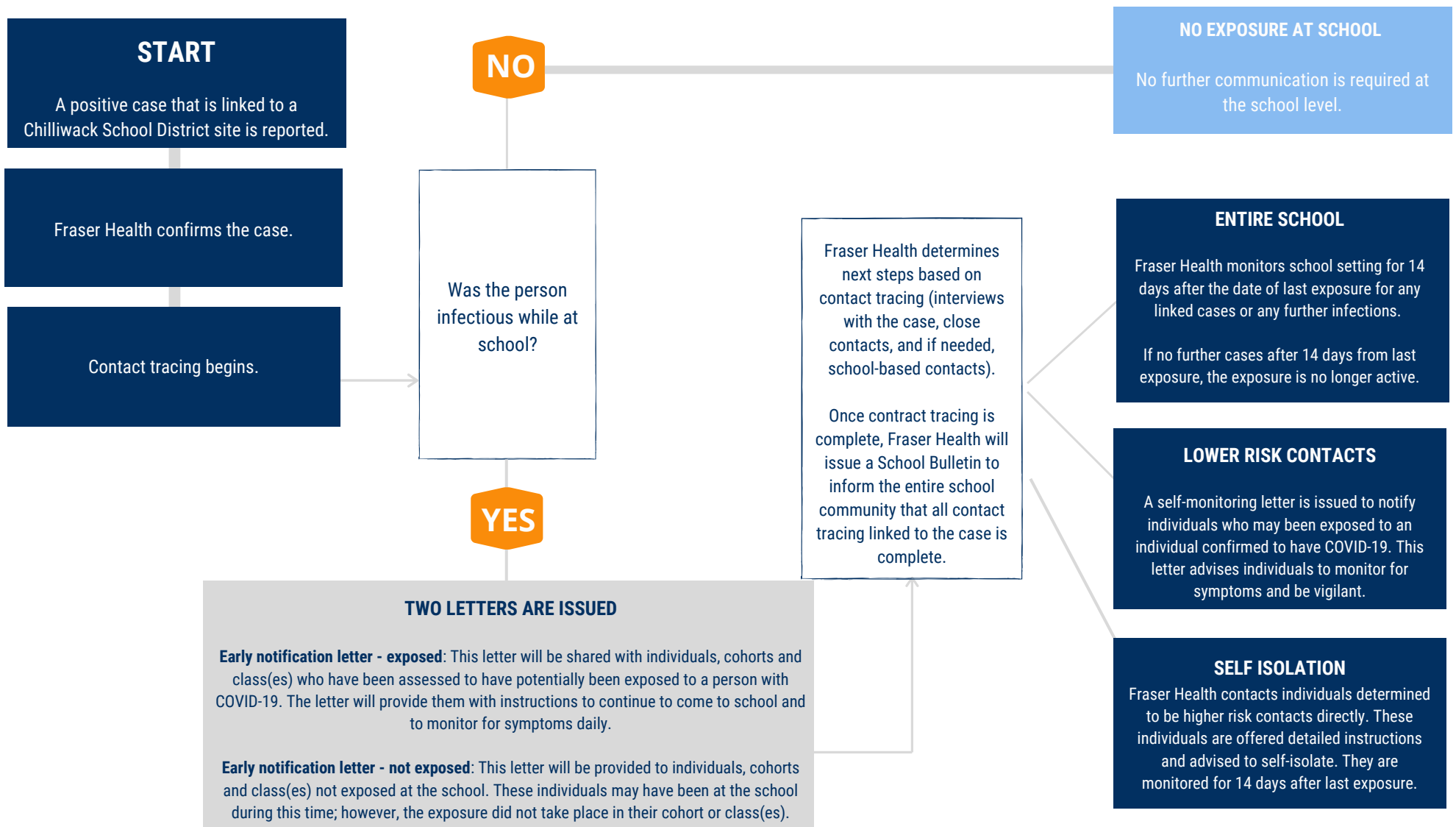
The safety and well-being of our students, families, and staff remain our highest priority. Please be reassured that our school district will continue to implement the strict health and safety protocols we have in place so that our children and staff can continue to attend school as safely as possible. Thank you for your patience as we navigate through these challenging times together, and know that through our collective actions, we will make a difference and keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arul-pragasam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rohan Arul-pragasam  
Interim School Superintendent

# POSITIVE COVID-19 SCHOOL AND HEALTH PROCESS



**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ACCESS THESE CREDIBLE WEBSITES FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION:**

[Government Self Assessment Tool](#) - [WorkSafeBC](#) - [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) - [Medical Concerns](#) (or dial 811)

Non-Medical Concerns dial 1-888-COVID19