



*"Home of the Thunderbirds"*

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

I hope that you are all doing well and that you have enjoyed the extended warm weather. Now as the rain is setting in for the Thanksgiving weekend, I hope you enjoy some cozy family time.

Life at school is going well. Students and staff have slipped into a comfortable routine which includes all of the recommended public health COVID prevention protocols. Thank you for working with our team as we move through these new challenges together. I appreciate the questions and concerns that parents, staff and students have raised and firmly believe that questions keep us all safer. If I don't know the answers, I will find out from someone who does and report back.

The NVSD COVID-19 FAQ's online are updated regularly as new information and provincial recommendations emerge. They can be found at: [https://www.sd44.ca/COVID-19/BacktoSchoolSeptember2020FAQs/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.sd44.ca/COVID-19/BacktoSchoolSeptember2020FAQs/Pages/default.aspx#/=) . I recommend that you bookmark this site and check it out regularly.

Below are answers to two of the questions that I was asked most frequently this week. I thought that you might be curious too. The answers are from the District website.

*Q: What will happen if someone tests positive in school? Will that individual school suspend in-class learning immediately?*

A: The BCCDC guidelines for schools are firm, in that if any student or staff member has even mild symptoms, the person(s) are not to attend school.

If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school, protocols are in place for the person to be isolated and returned home as soon as possible. Public health would be notified immediately of a potential case. Custodial staff would clean and disinfect the area where the person had been isolated and any areas used by them.

If anyone at school contracts COVID-19, public health would work with school administration on contact tracing\*. As per normal protocols, public health officials will work with the school district and school administration to determine what actions should be taken and if suspending in-class learning is necessary. If any staff or student has been in contact with a COVID-positive person, they will be notified by public health officials and must self-isolate. The NVSD will not release any information regarding individuals who may have COVID-19 exposure unless directed to do so by Vancouver Coastal Health.

\*The use of learning groups supports rapid contact tracing by allowing public health to focus on a smaller group of people.

*Q: What if there is an outbreak or a second wave? What are your contingency plans?*

A: The Ministry of Education has developed a five-stage approach supported by strict public health guidelines from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) that allow in-class instruction to be increased or decreased depending on the risk of transmission.

In the case of a local outbreak, public health officials will work with school administration to determine what actions should be taken and if suspending in-class learning is necessary. If any staff or student has been in contact with a COVID-positive person, they will be notified by public health officials and must self-isolate.

If there is a large-scale outbreak or second wave, the Ministry will continue to work with the Provincial Health Officer, school districts and independent school associations to review and revise health and safety measures in schools based on updated public health guidance.

As an aside, our CPAC asks that you consider joining them online through their new FreshSchools app. Sign up here: <https://www.freshschools.com/app/schools/carisbrooke-elementary-school/register> .

I hope that you have a quiet and restful weekend. Despite these challenging times, we all have a great deal to be thankful for.

Sincerely,

Lisa Upton

Principal, Carisbrooke