



Monday, September 21, 2020

Re: Protocols for Covid-19 Exposure

Dear Parents:

As this most unusual of school years settles in, I wanted to reach out to update you as to how Vancouver College will respond and communicate with you in the case of a Covid-19 exposure at our school.

First of all, it is paramount for you to know that Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) will determine the scale and scope of our response, as it would do for any school in its jurisdiction. This makes sense, as VCH has far more knowledge, experience and practical expertise than we do in dealing with significant health-related matters. For up-to-date information from VCH about any school exposures, please go to this [link](#).

If one of our students or staff members has a confirmed case of Covid-19, VCH will initiate contact tracing and work with that person and their family to find out how/when they were infected. VCH will also identify who else may be at risk of infection. If there was no potential exposure at school, VCH would not contact Vancouver College. However, if there was a potential exposure at school, VCH will work with our administrative team to understand who may have been exposed. They would also outline what actions the school would need to take to manage the exposure, including isolation, cleaning, or hygiene protocols.

It is important to be aware that, to protect personal privacy rights, VCH will not disclose that a student or staff member is a confirmed case of COVID-19 unless it has reason to believe they may have been infectious when they attended school. In this case, the health authority will only provide the information required to support effective contact tracing (likely not the person's name). This information will only be shared with myself, as Principal, and no one else. If the health authority does not contact you but you remain worried about your son being exposed, you are encouraged to contact 8-1-1 for further advice.

Secondly, again for privacy reasons, Vancouver College will be limited in providing communication to our families or staff about confirmed Covid-19 cases unless we are directed to do so by the health authority. In fact, due to contact tracing protocols and timing, some of you might hear from VCH before the school has had a chance or is even given permission to communicate.

As well, if Vancouver College is made aware of rumours associated with a suspected case of Covid-19 in the school community, the school will take no action until notified by VCH. Please do not propagate unsubstantiated rumours in our community as well.

Finally, if we do face the unfortunate situation of a positive Covid-19 case in our community, we will act with compassion and respect for the person diagnosed and their family. We ask you to speak with your sons about this important issue, and, as primary educators, to mirror a respectful, supportive and empathetic approach to anyone involved. Our strength lies in our power of community, and it is this and our shared faith and values, that will guide us through these challenging times.

Semper fidelis,

Daryl Weaver

Principal, Vancouver College