

COVID-19 EXPOSURE NOTIFICATIONS IN SCHOOLS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My school sent home an Exposure Notification Letter – What does this mean?



- This notice does not mean that you or your child has been exposed to COVID -19
- This notice is a general letter indicating that someone who tested positive for COVID -19 has been in the school. The dates on the letter inform you of when that person was in the school.
- It is important to remember that all visitors to the school and school staff and secondary students are required to wear masks when outside of their cohort/learning group at all times

How will I know if my child was exposed?

- You will receive a phone call from Northern Health if your child was exposed or at high risk
- Public Health (PH), directly notifies any identifiable close contacts who are determined to be at increased personal risk of exposure:
 - PH determines who is a “close contact” according to a set of standard provincial exposure criteria (e.g. distance, duration, ventilation, mask use, body fluid contact).
 - In most cases, the person who tested positive is able to provide all the necessary information on their close contacts. Occasionally, additional information may be needed from the school or other settings.
- Low-risk, non-close contacts are generally not notified individually, as transmission to non-close contacts is rare. Most members of a classroom or learning group are typically considered non-close contacts.



What happens now? Should I call the school or Northern Health?



- If Northern Health identifies anyone at the school that needs to self-monitor or self-isolate, they will be contacted directly by Northern Health. That contact often occurs within 24 to 48 hours, however, may be shorter or longer depending on the circumstances.
- Do not call Northern Health or the school for more information – you and your family will be contacted by the NH Public Health Contact Tracing team if your child was a high risk exposure
- If you do not receive a phone call or letter, please continue to attend school and monitor for symptoms compatible with COVID-19 as per the school protocols.

Will we be informed of who tested positive and was in the school?



Privacy Policy

- No. Schools cannot disclose any personal information.