



Dear Oak Bay families:

The recent news and pandemic developments in our community are generating many questions and concerns among our families. Yesterday you should have received a letter from the VI COVID-19 Rapid Response Team which indicated that Island schools should be prepared to see an increase in COVID-19 exposures. Additionally, I am aware that there is discussion within our school community regarding possible confirmed cases and exposures among Oak Bay students.

I recognize this type of information can create a stressful situation for families and students, as well as for our staff. We all want our school to be a safe place. I believe in clear and direct communication and would like to assure you that I will give you as much information as I can as quickly as possible. This is what I know as of this letter:

With respect to possible confirmed cases and exposures within our school community, Island Health takes the lead in managing school situations. At this time, I have not received any information from Island Health regarding our school. If that changes I will share information with everyone promptly.

I appreciate that families want to know as much information as possible so they can make the best choices for their child(ren). The best advice I can give is to please reinforce with your child the importance of:

- following our COVID19 health procedures
- doing a Daily Health check and staying home if they are exhibiting any symptoms
- regular hand washing
- mask-wearing
- physical distancing
- using their designated entrance and exit
- not gathering in groups
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Finally, as you may know, plans for new mask rules for schools were announced by Dr. Bonnie Henry during yesterday's COVID-19 Update. I intend to communicate the new guidelines to you as soon as possible and we will all do our part to ensure they are followed within our school. In the meantime, any encouragement you can give to your students regarding mask-wearing is appreciated.

We are all in this together, and I know that collectively we will do everything possible to make sure that Oak Bay remains a safe place for education for everyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks

Tom Aerts
Principal