



October 7, 2021

Dear students, staff and parents:

I received the information below from Interior Health Authority (IHA) which may be helpful to you. We appreciate and recognize everything you are doing to keep yourselves and others safe.

“Interior Health wants to reassure parents and the school community that we continue to prioritize schools for contact tracing and closely monitoring the transmission of COVID-19 in Interior Health schools.

Public health will directly follow up with anyone identified as a COVID-19 case and determine if other students or staff were close contacts.

Anyone who has been exposed and deemed a close contact will be directly notified through contact tracing.

For further information on COVID-19 contact tracing in schools please visit - http://www.bccdc.ca/schools/Documents/Contact_Tracing.pdf

Thanks to increasing vaccination rates and precautions already in place for schools, eligible students and staff will have strong protection against the virus. However, COVID-19 continues to circulate in our communities and cases are still possible.

Interior Health is seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases in school-aged children, particularly those under age 12 years, across the region including in the Cranbrook area. Most exposures are happening outside the school setting – in private gatherings and events, so we are urging people to keep those get-togethers small, especially coming up to the long weekend.

Under the current [Interior Health’s Gatherings and Events Order](#), indoor personal gatherings are limited to the occupants plus five guests or one other household while adhering to appropriate COVID-19 prevention measures (e.g. masking, physical distancing etc). Most up-to-date regional restrictions can be found [here](#).

The most important thing for students and families to remember is that students who have any symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and get tested.

People at school who are not close contacts are not at increased risk, so don't need to take any additional actions beyond continuing to follow general public health recommendations.

Please visit the [BCCDC website](#) for more information on school health-checks for students and public health guidance for K-12 schools.”