Deputy Minister's office (E-1)
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

November 19, 2020

Dear Parents/guardians,

RE: Reminder in the event of a COVID-19 case connected to a school

With recent surges in COVID-19 cases in most areas of Canada, I wanted to remind you about the steps we take if there is a COVID-19 case connected to a student, staff or visitor to a school.

The health and safety of students, staff and our communities remains our first priority. Schools continue to follow their operational plans to meet the health and safety guidelines for school settings set by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health. This includes staying home when sick, regular handwashing, physical distancing and mask use when distancing is not possible and following the traffic light poster to self-monitor and stay home when needed.

If there is a positive case of COVID-19 in a community, Yukon Communicable Disease Control and the Chief Medical Officer of Health lead the response. They start contact tracing and identify and notify anyone who may have been in close contact with the positive case, including any parents/guardians of students, and teachers/staff/visitors in the school. They also work with the Chief and Council of the local First Nation and the Mayor in the community to ensure they are involved in the process.

If there is a connection to a student, staff or visitor to the school, we work closely with Yukon Communicable Disease Control and the Chief Medical Officer of Health to ensure necessary measures are in place to protect the health and safety of students, staff and the community. A case connected to a school does not mean the entire school will close or that all students and staff need to self-isolate. Yukon Communicable Disease Control provides direction on who may have to stay home and self-isolate and who is safe to continue going to school. If you are not contacted by Yukon Communicable Disease Control, it has been determined you or your child is not at risk.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to practice the safe six and keep our communities safe.

More information:
- Read the attached FAQ and Roles and Responsibilities documents on what happens if there is a COVID-19 case connected to school
- Read about health and safety in schools: yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/health-and-safety-schools-covid-19

- Review the traffic light poster to monitor for symptoms and staying home when sick: yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/industry-operating-guidelines-covid-19/can-your-child-go

Sincerely,

Nicole Morgan
Deputy Minister of Education

COVID-19 in a K-12 school setting

What happens if there is a COVID-19 case connected to a school

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Does the entire class or school have to self-isolate or be sent home if a student/teacher/staff/visitor at the school tests positive for COVID-19?

- No, **it does not mean self-isolation for everyone**. It will depend on the case and the information gathered about contact and exposure.
- Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC) will identify and directly notify anyone who has been in close contact, including at school. **They will provide direction on who should stay home and self-isolate** and other advice.

How many confirmed cases in a school will result in closing that school?

- YCDC and Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health will investigate any positive COVID-19 case at a school and provide direction depending on the specific circumstances.
- A confirmed COVID-19 case at a school **does not mean the entire school will close**. YCDC will provide direction on who needs to stay home and self-isolate, which may include specific classes or groups of students depending on contact tracing.

Will the school community be informed of a positive case at the school?

- YCDC will contact the individual and their family (if they are a minor) if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19. They will determine who else needs to be notified and ensure the privacy and security of personal health information.
- If you are not contacted by YCDC, it has been determined your child is not at risk. **You do not need to contact YCDC to confirm.**

What does the school do if a parent or staff say they or a student is COVID-19 positive and the school has not been contacted by YCDC?

- YCDC receives all case notifications directly from the testing lab. If there is a confirmed case connected to a school, they will contact the school and any other appropriate contacts. It is not necessary to contact them to confirm.

Getting the correct information

- **Always verify information** before taking action or sharing information on COVID-19 by visiting yukon.ca/en/covid-19-information.
- Use the traffic light to monitor daily for symptoms. Call 811 to follow advice on testing.
- For more information: yukon.ca/en/education-and-school-supports-covid-19

Current as of: November 19, 2020

COVID-19 in a K-12 school setting

Roles and responsibilities if a COVID-19 case is connected to a school

Yukon Communicable Disease Control and Chief Medical Officer of Health

- Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC) receives COVID-19 test results.
- YCDC notifies the patient if there is a positive result.
- YCDC, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, investigate the case. This includes starting the contact tracing process by contacting any close contacts and providing direction on who may have to stay home and self-isolate.
- YCDC and the Chief Medical Officer of Health notify the Department of Education's Deputy Minister, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of Schools and Student Services and the school administration on a confidential basis and makes recommendations on impacts to school operations.
- YCDC and the Chief Medical Officer of Health also work with the Chief and Council of the local First Nation and the Mayor in the community to ensure they are involved.

Department of Education central administration staff

- The Deputy Minister and ADM of Schools and Student Services may receive confidential information from YCDC and Chief Medical Officer of Health if there is a positive case connected to a school.
- The ADM of Schools and Student Services and YCDC advise the school administration.
- The ADM of Schools and Student Services works with school administration to ensure any YCDC recommendations are implemented.

School administration

- School administration ensures YCDC recommendations are implemented at the school.
- School administration **does not notify** other students, staff or families. YCDC directly notifies those who may be affected.
- School administration **does not** need to contact YCDC if a student, staff or parent says they or a student has COVID-19. YCDC will contact school administration if there is a confirmed case connected to their school.

Current as of November 19, 2020