



# School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

Board of Education of School District No. 71

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May 19, 2021

## **Straight Talk: COVID-19 Contacts in Comox Valley Schools-Update**

This communication is provided to all Comox Valley School District families to clearly share facts regarding recent COVID-19 exposures within our School District.

Yesterday afternoon Island Health advised us that an exposure had occurred at **Highland Secondary School**.

The following details summarize events and action undertaken:

### **Highland Secondary School**

- 3 members of the Highland school community recently tested positive for COVID-19.
- Island Health identified thirty-one grade 10 and 11 students who will be required to self-isolate until midnight, May 31st.
- The school community was advised of the situation via letter dated May 18, 2021.

All School District processes worked efficiently to assist our regional health authority to reduce further contacts. Island Health continues to commend the strong, effective protocols that our District has implemented across our district as effectively protecting students as staff and preventing further exposures.

We continue to work together to keep our school communities safe, with increasing number of exposures in our region we are not at liberty to relax our practices or behaviors. The pandemic persists. COVID-19 persists within our community. As such, we will continue to enforce our Health and Safety measures and update our protocols as directed by the Province.

At school sites, please continue daily health checks, frequent handwashing, the wearing of masks, and maintaining physical distancing. Please, stay home if unwell.

We recognize that this unfortunate news will create further anxiety and cause for concern for some families. Please be extra compassionate to those around you this week go about your busy lives.

Our positive thoughts go out to our students who will be self- isolating until June 1<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to their return.

Respectfully,

Paul Berry  
Director of Health and Safety