



# CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

## DIOCESE OF PRINCE GEORGE

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October 28, 2021

Re COVID-19

Dear parents and caregivers of students at our Catholic School:

Thank you again for choosing to enroll your child(ren) in our Catholic School. Across the Diocese of Prince George our student numbers are up 34 from last year to be 1579 in our eight schools in CISP (Catholic Independent Schools, Diocese of Prince George).

I'm proud of the efforts and dedication of staff, pastors, school councils and students on our three strategic anchors of Bold Intentional Faith Formation, Innovative Learning and Healthy Communities. The last anchor is the focus of today's letter as we work together to build healthy communities for our students and staff to learn and lead in.

It has been difficult navigating through the processes and notifications re COVID-19 this fall. Based on cases, there are different practices in different health regions in BC and different processes from what we and parents were familiar with last school year. Currently, Northern Health(NH) contacts a school about a case of COVID-19 for contact tracing purposes only. It is not to inform the principal of a case. **When NH is in touch with a school principal nothing further is done with this information.** Schools cannot provide information to the school community based on what NH contacts them about. NH will not be contacting school principals for most cases.

If determined by the NH Medical Health Officer that there is an increased risk of COVID-19 in a specific setting, NH will issue a notification letter.

CISP Schools reference page 7 of 24 from ['Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools' Oct 1, 2021,](#)

that reads, "*School Administrators or staff **should not** provide notifications to staff or students' families about potential or confirmed communicable diseases cases (including COVID19) unless the school administrator is **directed** to do so by the school medical officer (NH).*"

[For more information on contact tracing](#) in schools please see the document in the link.

In summary, Northern Health will play the lead role in determining if, when and how to communicate information regarding increased risks to the school community. Northern Health will notify close contacts, including if any follow-up actions are recommended (e.g. self-isolate, monitor for symptoms, etc.). If contacted by Northern Health the Principal will help provide details as required to determine if additional notifications are warranted (e.g. notification to the broader community).

To ensure personal privacy rights are maintained and that information provided is complete and correct, our Catholic School is not able to provide any public statements about potential or confirmed COVID-19 school exposures unless communications are directed by Northern Health.

Another helpful link to give you more information on COVID-19 in K-12 setting is the [BCCDC Situation Report](#)

I'm hopeful, that together with Northern Health, our incredibly supportive parent communities and strong staff that we can prayerfully arrive at better place where people aren't sick and we don't have as many restrictions. In the meantime, CISPG will continue to take direction from our Health Authority and share with parents and the community as directed by our Health Officer.

With hope,



Chris Dugdale, CISPG Superintendent

