

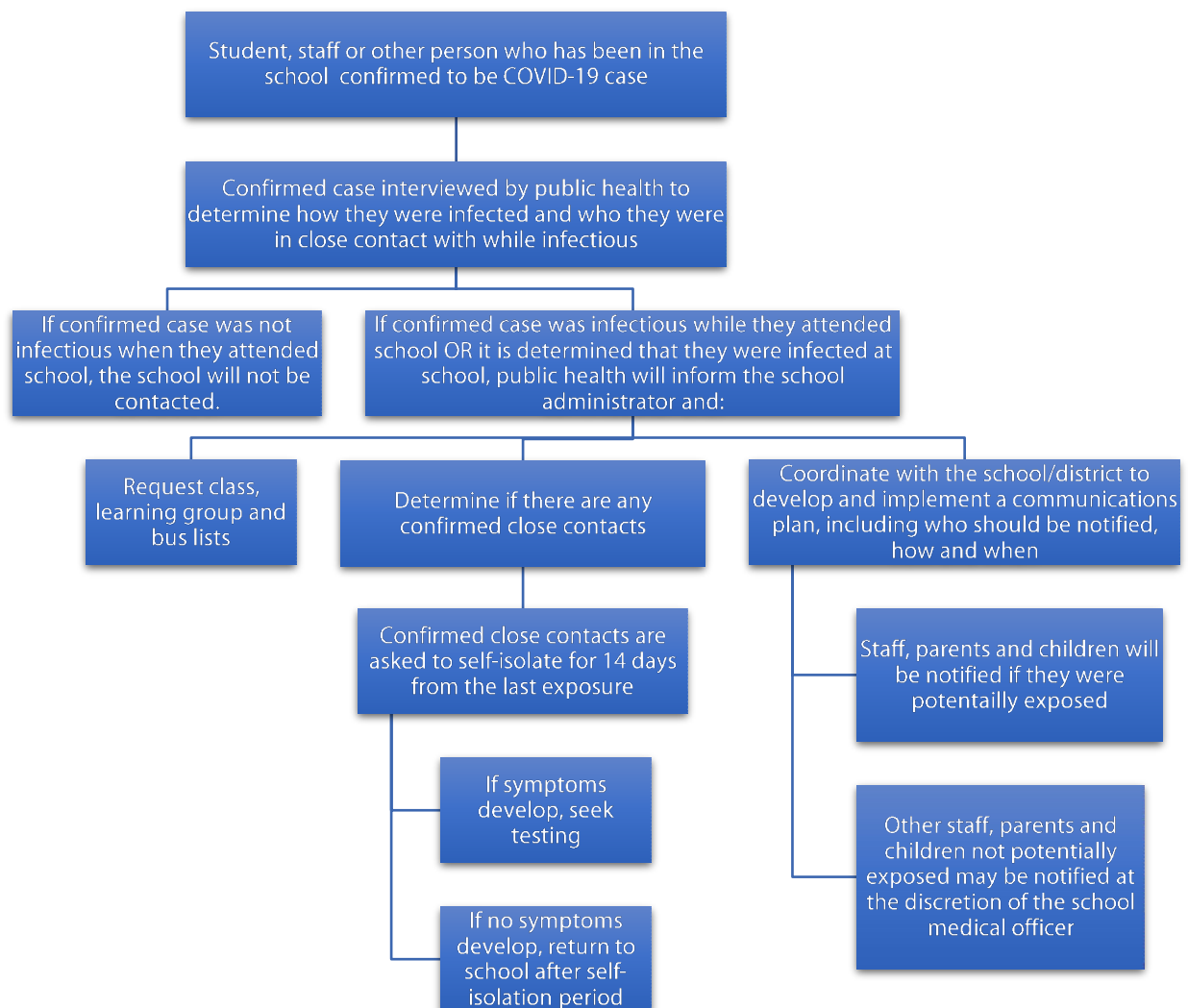


What happens if there is a positive case of COVID-19 at my child's school?

When a positive case of COVID-19 is confirmed in our school community, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), our local health authority, oversees the entire process. They investigate each case and conduct contact tracing to determine who, if anyone, may have been a close contact. VCH reaches out directly to any persons who may have been exposed and provides them appropriate recommendations and support (ie. Self-monitoring, self-isolation or COVID testing).

The Vancouver Coastal Health notification process is included on their website: [School Exposures](#)

Only the health authority can determine who is a close contact. These are the steps should there be a positive case in a school:



What is the timing if there is a positive case in a school?

Every positive test of COVID-19 is followed up by the health authority, in our case, Vancouver Coastal Health. They work as fast as possible to determine any close contacts during the infectious period. **This process is under the complete control of the health authority.**

Why aren't you making masks mandatory in classes?

The rules for masks come from the Ministry of Education and they are consistent throughout BC. You can find them here: [Return to School](#). There is no ability to add or subtract from these provincial guidelines. The Ministry guidelines are based on recommendations from the Provincial Health Officer.

Is it safe for my child to return to class?

Yes. It is safe for your child to attend class. If you do not receive a phone call or letter from public health officials, please continue to attend school and use your daily health checklist to monitor for symptoms compatible with COVID-19 as per our school policy.

Will any curriculum or classes be affected?

No. Our school is sufficiently staffed to ensure the continuation of instruction.

What are you doing to ensure my child's safety?

Our school and district are following the guidance provided by public health officials as detailed in our district's health and safety guidelines, and we will continue to work with public health officials to determine if any other actions are necessary.

Our health and safety plans are available on the district website (www.westvancouver.schools.ca). This plan includes details on how our school is reducing the number of in-person, close interactions students and staff will have in a day through set cohorts/learning groups and physical distancing. Plans also include a rigorous cleaning and disinfection plan that includes:

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises at least once every 24 hours;
- Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently-touched surfaces at least twice every 24 hours.

I am concerned about my child's safety. Is face-to-face instruction my only option?

We have been tasked by the Ministry of Education with maximizing student in-class learning this fall. And for most families, this is something that they are really appreciating. Some families opted to return gradually by way of a temporary transition (K-9). As the school year is now underway, this is no longer an option. Other options include Home School (which is independent of the school district) or Distributed Learning (DL) courses that are available through other districts. [Vancouver, North Vancouver, Burnaby](#) have these options.

Can you share any further details on this situation? Why isn't more being explained?

We are committed to open and transparent communication with our families. Our district will continue sharing COVID-19 exposures at our schools with families to build trust and confidence in our return to school plan. To ensure personal privacy rights are maintained, we will not be providing additional details.