



Education (E-7)
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

September 9, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian/Staff

RE: COVID-19 and school settings – reminders and key info

As families are settling into new school routines, we want to remind everyone of important information related to how we respond to COVID-19 cases connected to schools.

This is a timely reminder, as there has been a positive COVID-19 test connected to Porter Creek Secondary School. The school remains open and is a low risk environment. Yukon's Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Catherine Elliot has directed students in certain classes at Porter Creek Secondary to self-monitor or self-isolate, depending on their vaccination status. Families directly affected have been contacted via a separate letter and/or by Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC).

Below is more information and helpful resources for all families.

Contact tracing and self-isolation

We work closely with YCDC and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to ensure necessary measures are in place to protect all students and staff when a case is connected to a school setting.

If there is a case connected to a school, YCDC:

- directly contacts anyone who may have been in close contact with the individual;
- provides direction on who needs to stay home and self-isolate; and
- provides any follow-up recommendations to the school and parents.

In such situations, if you are **not** contacted by YCDC, it has been determined you and your child are currently **not at risk**. You will not need to contact them.

We acknowledge these situations may raise concerns and that families may want to know more about the confirmed case; however, please respect the privacy of others and the process led by YCDC.

K-12 school guidelines

All schools have developed Operational Plans for Communicable Disease with specific response protocols in the event of a positive COVID-19 case, which follow the [K-12 school guidelines](#) provided by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

We know that keeping schools open and available to students is good for their well-being, and our schools are prepared and ready to adapt to these situations with their Operational Plans for Communicable Disease, including how to support students with continued learning from home.

Here's what families can do

It takes all of us to have the resolve to keep our schools safe and available. This includes each of us doing our part to contribute to the overall safety of staff and students.

It's important that we stay home when sick, encourage those who can get vaccinated to get fully vaccinated, self-isolate when asked to do so and follow the operational plan for communicable disease at your school. Each of these measures adds an additional layer to help protect Yukoners and keep our schools low risk environments.

Parents can support their children in staying safe at school by keeping them home when they are sick or showing symptoms.

To keep our school communities safe please continue to monitor for any of these signs/symptoms of COVID-19:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Fever | • Sore throat | • Loss of appetite |
| • Chills | • Loss of sense of taste | • Nausea and vomiting |
| • Cough | • or smell | • Diarrhea |
| • Shortness of breath | • Headache | • Muscle aches |
| • Runny nose | • Fatigue | |

For more information on what to do if you or your child have symptoms visit:

- [Stop light guidance: Can your child go to school or return to regular activities?](#)
- [Find the COVID-19 Testing and Assessment Centre](#)
- [Self-assessment tool for COVID-19](#)

Other key resources

- Visit yukon.ca/en/covid-19-information for verified and up-to-date information on COVID-19.
- Visit [K-12 school guidelines for 2021-22](#) for COVID-19 health and safety information related to schools.

The health and safety of students, families and staff is our first priority. By working together and doing our part, we will support all Yukon children with safe, supported learning environments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Sikkes', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ryan Sikkes
Assistant Deputy Minister, Schools and Student Services
Department of Education