

Ey Swayel. Good morning.

It is December 7th and I wanted to provide an update on changes in the protocols around COVID notification for schools. To start with what's different? In the past whenever there was a case attached to a school, the entire school would get one letter and it was called an early notice of exposure. And we had kind of two questions that would often come up: 1. people wanted to know does this impact me or my child? 2. When does it end? When the contact tracing is done would I know? So there have been some changes.

So with this lack of closure and questions we were facing, Fraser Health has now made a shift. And so now you're going to see three types of letters. There's going to be a notice of exposure and a notice of non exposure, and then a school bulletin. So what's going to happen is if there is a case of COVID attached to a specific classroom, that class will get a notice of exposure, meaning you may have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID. The entire rest of the school is going to get a notice of non exposure and you have not been exposed. It's important to note that contact tracing is still underway. As soon as that contact tracing is complete, then Fraser Health will issue what's called a school bulletin. The school bulletin will let people know that the contact tracing is done and that case is over with. So it's a very significant shift. So why again did they do this? We always heard from people that they want to know what class was the positive case in or what learning group. This will identify the specific people in the classes, and it lets the rest of the school know that they're not directly impacted. There's been a case, but it doesn't include you. And again, it's a reminder that contact tracing is always still underway. But the school bulletin closes the door to let people know that the contact tracing is over, and people can basically stand down from that specific case. So it's a big change and a good change really for us.

You're going to start to see these different letters coming if you have a case attached to your school. We have work to do for people like our temporary employees, like how do we make sure that we inform our teachers teaching on call, or any other adults attached to classes. How do we make sure that we alert them in the same way that we notify all other classes?

And finally, a reminder that the basics still matter. It's up to all of us to physical distance when outside your learning group, in common areas, watching the flow in the hallways, entering and exiting schools, washing your hands, not touching your face and doing

your daily Health Check. Please so not send your child to school or if you are an adult, don't come to the school when you are sick or when you have symptoms. Where your mask whenever you are outside your learning group in hallways and common areas. When you're on the move, mask up that is the requirements in the guidelines. It's a package, there's no one measure to help keep COVID at bay. This is about all of us paying attention to all of the details. So with that, look for these new notices of exposure.

Take care and stay well, we have 2 weeks left until the break.

Hy'ce:pka. Take care.