

October 30, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: BCCDC Halloween Safety Tips and COVID-19 Protocols

With seasonal celebrations upon us and COVID-19 cases on the rise across the Province, we thought now would be a good time to connect and revisit our COVID-19 protocols.

While Dr. Henry reports new cases across BC in her daily briefings, we have been very fortunate on the Island to see very few active cases in our community. We are also ever so fortunate to have had zero exposures or cases in our schools to date.

We would like to take a moment to thank all of our staff, students and families for taking an active role in keeping our children safe. We understand that this school year has been different and at times challenging. From additional safety protocols, the provision of masks, new secondary quarterly systems, and staggered scheduling, we know how much of a learning curve the past two months has been; especially for families with children across elementary, middle and secondary. Again, thank you for your patience and for remaining supportive. Our school administrators, teachers and staff are working incredibly hard to provide the safest learning environments and offer continuity of learning to all of our students.

We are very pleased to receive feedback from the schools and community about how well our students are adapting. While circumstances remain less than ideal in a pandemic, our students continue to model resiliency and work towards positive outcomes. Please note that if you feel your child may need additional support, speak to your school principal and/or schedule a time with a school counsellor.

While we are comforted in knowing that there are limited cases on southern Vancouver Island, we still cannot let our guard down and must follow the direction of our Public Health Officer. With Halloween upon us, we ask that you please review the BCCDC's safety tips to help reduce the risk of transmission: [BC Centre of Disease Control – Halloween Safety Tips](#)

Keeping health and safety top of mind, we would also like to reiterate the District's health and safety protocols. As well as the communication protocols in place in the event of a possible exposure or confirmed case in one of our schools, these protocols are an important planning and action tool.

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

Following the comprehensive measures set by the Ministries of Health and Education, the District's health and safety protocols adhere to all of the requirements of the Public Health Office. All schools follow procedures outlined in our exposure control plan:

[COVID-19 Public Health Office's Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#)

[GVSD Exposure Control Plan for School Sites](#)

We would also like to remind families to complete their daily checklist each morning to identify any key symptoms of illness to help keep our school community safe:

[Daily Checklist for Parents to Assess Students](#)

As the Superintendent, I have a responsibility to ensure that our school communities are safe and all steps are taken to protect our students and staff. In the event of a possible exposure or confirmed case in one of our schools, our District will notify all students, staff and families who may be at potential risk or who have come into contact with the virus. In said scenario, we will follow the Ministry's COVID-19 Protocols for School and District Administrators. The following document outlines the actions taken if there is a student, staff or other person who has been confirmed to come into contact with COVID-19:

[Management of Illness and Confirmed Cases](#)

We understand that this may be a lot of information to digest or revisit. Our intention is to offer as many supports and resources as possible to our families. If you'd like further information, please visit:

www.sd61.bc.ca/covid-19/

Thank you for your time and continued support. We hope everyone has a lovely weekend and can treat themselves this Halloween.

Sincerely,



Shelley Green
Superintendent of Schools

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One *Learning* Community

