KWALIKUM SECONDARY SCHOOL

Working together to realize our full potential

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Dear Parent/Guardian

In the case of student illness, the safety and welfare of students are paramount. In light of the current pandemic, the Ministry of Education and BC Centre for Disease Control has provided the following information for families.

The BCCDC guidelines for schools are firm. If a student has any symptoms of a cold, influenza, COVID-19, or any other infectious respiratory disease, **they must not take the bus or go to school.**

Students Who Become Sick at School

If a student develops symptoms at school, provincial protocols are in place.

- If a student develops symptoms at school, they will be given a non-medical mask and will be separated from their classmates. Students are supervised and cared for by an adult in this separate setting.

- The student's parent or guardian will be contacted to discuss next steps, and asked to pick up their child as soon as possible.

- If your child is symptomatic, please seek assessment by a health-care provider and self-isolate while awaiting results. **Parents/guardians can call 8-1-1 or Island Health COVID Call Center 1-844-901-8442.**

- The student cannot return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and the **child is no longer symptomatic**. **Please complete the provincial daily health check that confirms that your child is symptom free** (https://bc.thrive.health).

Schools will contact public health if absenteeism is more that 10% of regular attendance, to help with the early identification of clusters or outbreaks.

When a COVID-19 test is recommended by the health assessment:

- If the COVID-19 test is **positive**, the child should stay home until they are told by public health to end their self-isolation. In most cases, this is 10 days after the onset of symptoms. Public health will contact everyone with a positive test.

- If the COVID-19 test is **negative**, the child can return to school once they are **no longer symptomatic**. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact school administration or review the following resources:

- https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school

- http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

- http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms