



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

October 1, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians/Staff

RE: COVID-19 cases at Ghùch Tlà Community School – new information

This is an urgent notice from the Department of Education for the Ghùch Tlà Community School, to let you know that Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC) has confirmed additional cases of COVID-19 in the **Grade 1/2/3 split class and the Kindergarten class (including K4/K5/Early Kindergarten)**. A letter from the Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health is attached to this email, which provides specific clinical direction for students and staff regarding who needs to self-isolate, who needs to be tested for COVID-19, and who needs to self-monitor for symptoms.

The Ghùch Tlà Community School remains open and is following their Operational Plan for Communicable Disease. We continue to work closely with YCDC and Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health to ensure necessary measures are in place to protect all students and staff. Please read the attached letter for the complete clinical direction from YCDC, and the Department of Education will continue to work with your school administration to keep parents, guardians and staff informed.

New direction for the Grade 1/2/3 split class and the Kindergarten class (including K4/K5/Early Kindergarten)

As per the letter from YCDC, new direction has been provided for students and staff specifically in the following classes:

- **Grade 1/2/3 split class from Sept. 20 to 24 (extended from Sept. 20 to 23), and**
- **Kindergarten/K4/K5/Early Kindergarten class from Sept. 20 to 24 (extended from Sept. 21 to 22).**

Testing:

- **All staff and students connected to the classes listed above must get tested for COVID-19, regardless of symptoms or immunization status.** This includes any student or staff who has been tested prior to Oct. 1.

Self-isolation:

- All Grade 1/2/3 and Kindergarten/K4 **students must self-isolate until Friday, Oct. 8 (inclusive)** and can return to school on Monday, Oct. 12 with a negative test result.
- Any partially vaccinated/unvaccinated staff present in the classes listed above, or who are fully immunized but with significant immunosuppression, **must self-isolate until Friday, Oct. 8 (inclusive)** and can return to school on Monday, Oct. 12 with a negative test result.
- Fully vaccinated staff, who received their second dose prior to Sept. 6 and who receive a negative test result, are to self-isolate until Oct. 4 and then self-monitor for symptoms through Friday, Oct. 8 (inclusive). While self-monitoring, it is very important that if **any** symptoms develop, no matter how mild, you do not go to school and arrange for testing.
- We strongly recommend that families support students who need to self-isolate and undergo testing by doing so together, as a family. The Ghùch Tlà Community School is prepared to support all students with distanced learning at this time.

Testing Services in Carcross

Arrangements are being made for additional testing services in Carcross, and we will provide more information once it is available.

For now, you can contact the **Carcross Health Centre at 867-821-4444** or the COVID Testing and Assessment Centre (CTAC) in Whitehorse at 867-393-3083. When calling the health center please mention that you are part of the Ghùch Tlà Community School notifications.

Symptoms and what to do if they develop

As usual, all staff and students at Ghùch Tlà Community School are asked to continue monitoring for any of signs/symptoms of COVID-19:

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

If you develop **any** symptoms, no matter how mild, please self-isolate and arrange for testing. You can contact the **Carcross Health Centre at 867-821-4444** or the COVID Testing and Assessment Centre (CTAC) in Whitehorse at 867-393-3083. When calling, please mention that you are part of the Ghùch Tlà Community School notifications.

Symptoms of COVID-19 may be mild or severe and often have a different presentation in persons who are very young or older. While most people will experience mild illness, older adults and people with pre-existing medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness.

We acknowledge you may have concerns and want to know more about confirmed cases; however, please respect the privacy of others and the process led by YCDC. This notification is being issued out of the utmost caution for our staff and students.

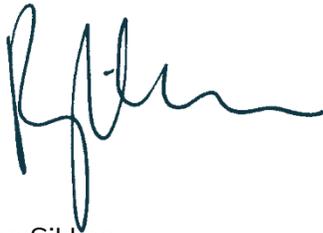
The school continues to follow the health and safety K-12 school guidelines as recommended.

Important reminders

- As always, we ask that anyone who feels unwell or sick in any way to stay home, regardless of their vaccination status. This includes staying home when you have a seasonal cold, the flu, etc.
- 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.
- For questions about instructions received from YCDC, contact: 867-667-8323.
- For other questions about COVID-19, contact: covid19info@yukon.ca or 1-877-374-0425.

We will provide additional information to parents/guardians as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Sikkes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan Sikkes
Assistant Deputy Minister, Schools and Student Services