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Dear parents and students of the Vancouver Island North School District No. 85

Thank you for working hard to prevent transmission of coronavirus in our region and thank you for caring so much about your families and communities.

Island Health has been working very hard to identify cases and contacts, isolating individuals to contain the spread of COVID-19. Regrettably, the recent false positive lab results have caused confusion and concern in communities in North Vancouver Island. We apologize for the confusion. As a Medical Health Officer responsible for the response to coronavirus in our schools, I have reviewed the situation with the false positive lab results. I am very confident in the systems we have in place, and the ability of these systems to learn and improve when errors are discovered. I have completed a recent review of COVID-19 cases in Vancouver Island North health area that reveals that activity level remains low and the communities and resident families are successfully working hard to contain any spread and reduce transmission in community.

When we do see cases and exposures in our schools, most often our investigations reveal that the COVID-19 transmissions occurred in social settings outside the schools. Although the number of school cases and potential exposures affects a small proportion of the school community, we take each and every case of COVID-19 seriously.

We would like to strongly remind students and staff to stick to cohorts and avoid socializing outside the school and only mingle with people in your “bubble.” This will prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the school community. School safety plans have been effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Please be assured Island Health and school administration are working together to ensure the school remains a safe place over the next week before the winter break. The safety of students and staff are our utmost priority.

We appreciate the whole community’s support in helping students and families to remain calm and work together with us to ensure all students are able to remain in class.

Huy ch q’u (Thank you),



Sandra Allison, MD, MPH, CCFP, FCFP, FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer – Island Health