

School Exposures

April 15, 2021



Stay Informed Via These Resources:

gov.bc.ca/Covid-19 | bccdc.ca | 1-888-COVID19

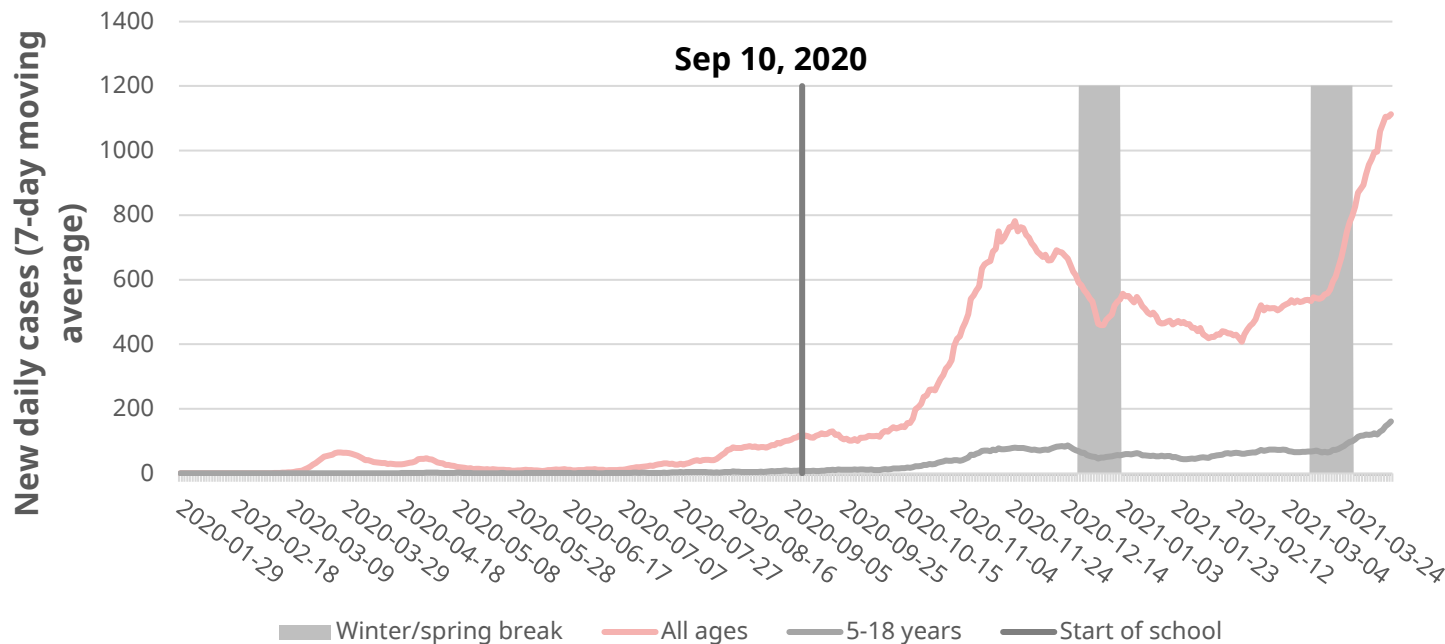
Symptom Self-Assessment:

covid19.thrive.health



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

The start of school sessions do not appear to result in significant increases in community transmission of COVID-19 at the provincial level in BC



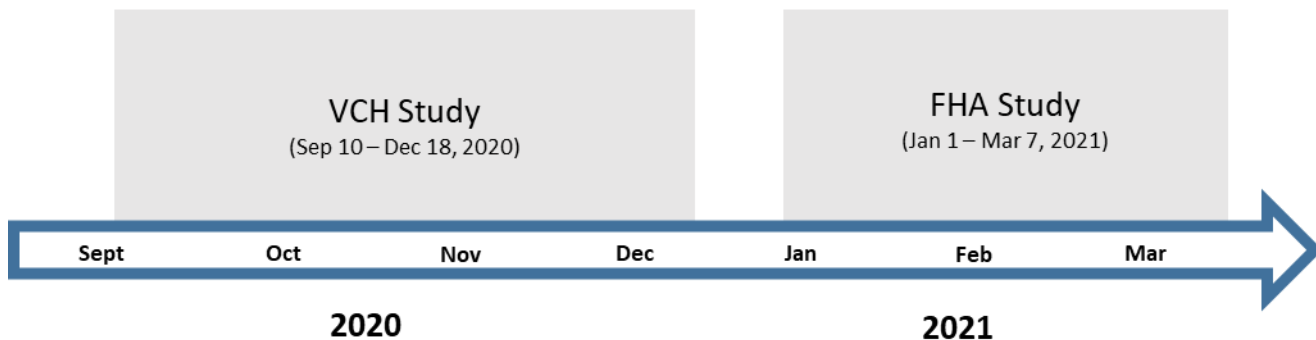
COVID-19 Virus Has a Relatively Low Infection Rate Among School-Aged Children (5 to 18 Years) in BC, From September 7, 2020 to April 9, 2021

Age Groups	Number of Cases	Percent of Cases	Percent of Population
0 – 4 Years	2113	2.07	4.41
5 – 12 Years	5468	5.37	7.65
13 – 18 Years	6350	6.23	6.16
19+ Years	87941	86.32	81.79

- **No deaths among school age children due to COVID-19**
- **Less than 1 in 200 school aged children with COVID-19 hospitalized**, which is considerably lower than adults 19+ years (1 in 20)

VCH and FHA School Transmission Studies

- In-depth reviews of COVID-19 cases among students and staff in K-12 schools within the Health Authorities help us understand what transmission looks like in the school setting.
- Identified cases where transmission likely occurred in school through review of contact tracing records.



Findings from the VCH Study (Sept 10 – Dec 18, 2020)

124,000



699

(< 1% of
students and
staff)



55

(8% of student
and staff cases)

Staff and
Students and
teachers in VCH
Region*

COVID-19 Cases
among students
(77%) and staff (23%)

Cases likely acquired **in school**

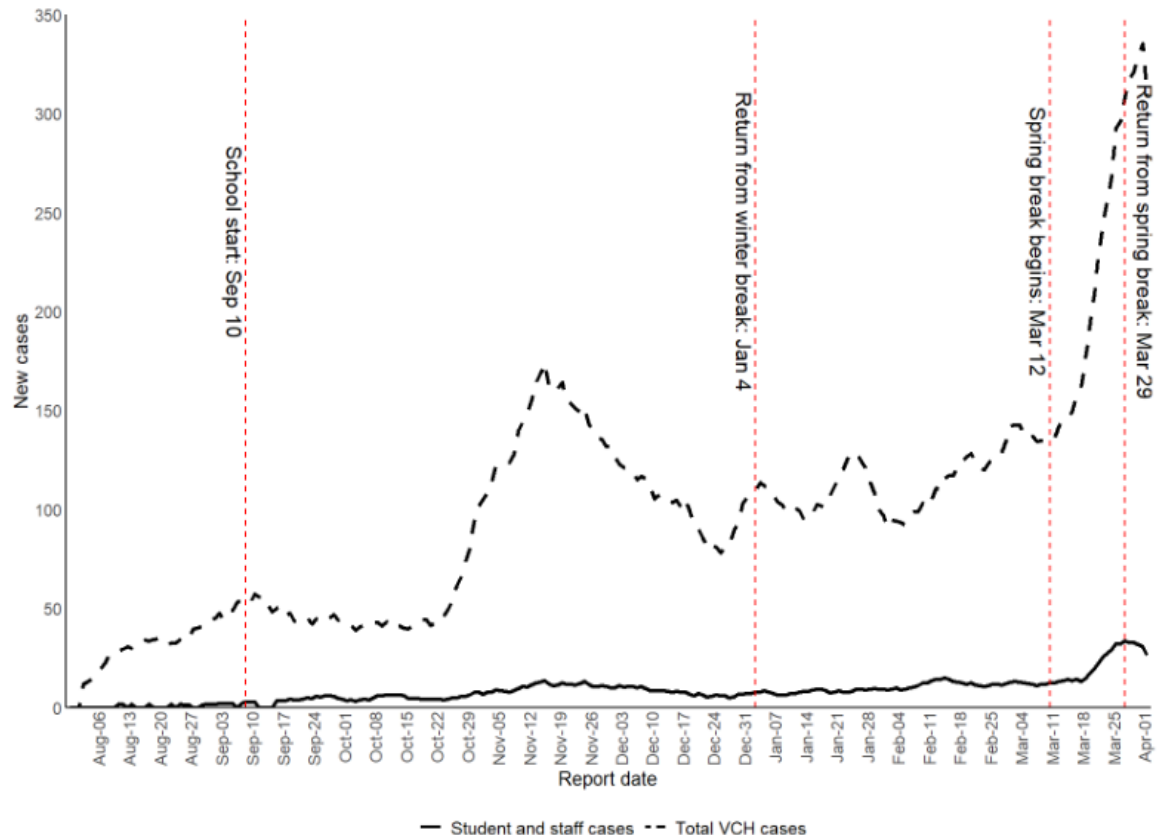
When transmission did occur within a school setting,
a case would **typically lead to 1 or 2 other**
cases in the school

*During this time period there were a **total of 8,746 cases** reported in the VCH Region*

**Approximate estimate based on those attending schools in person during this time period*

Student and Staff Cases make up a small proportion of overall cases in VCH

School closures during holidays do not appear to lead to reductions in overall cases among students and staff.



Findings from the Fraser Health Study (Jan 1 – Mar 7, 2021)

315,000



Staff and
Students in Fraser
Region*

2049

(< 1% of students
and staff)

COVID-19 Cases
among students
(83%) and staff (17%)



267

(13% of student
and staff cases)

Cases likely acquired in school

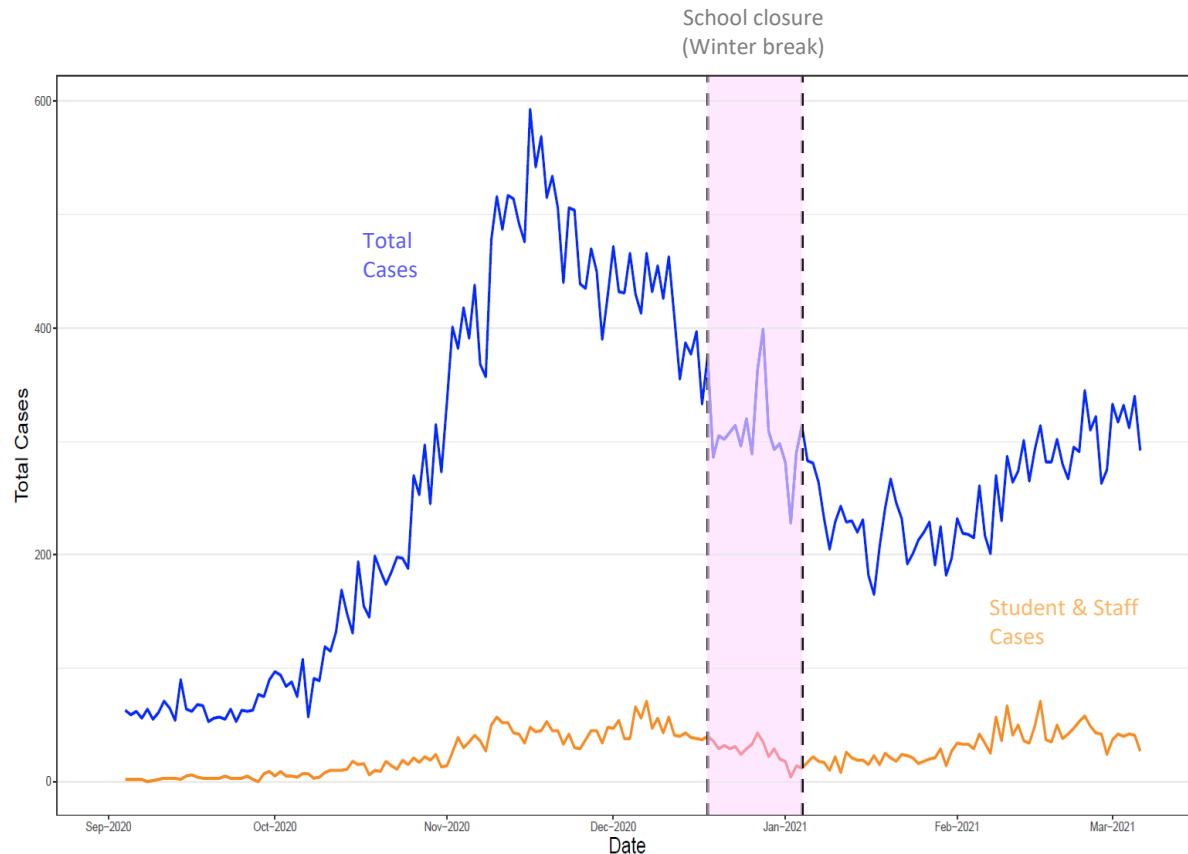
- When transmission did occur within a school setting, a case would **typically lead to 1 other case in the school**
- No transmission was identified in approximately **85%** of schools in the Fraser region during this time period

*During this time period there were a **total of 16,053 cases** reported in the Fraser Region*

**Approximate estimate based Ministry of Education data*

Student and Staff Cases make up a small proportion of overall cases in Fraser Health

Student and staff cases follow community trends – they are a reflection of community COVID-19 activity.



Key Messages

- COVID-19 cases in schools reflect community transmission
- Most cases of COVID-19 among students and staff are acquired outside of school in their household or community
- When transmission occurs within the school, it is usually limited to one or two additional cases
- School transmission does not appear to be a major driver of community transmission