

A message from Paul Berry, Director of Instruction – Health and Safety

The safety of your children while at school is our primary responsibility. To this end, School District 71 (Comox Valley) has staff well trained and well prepared to respond to all potential hazards.

Every School District employee is required to review annually our emergency protocols. Every school conducts drills throughout each year to ensure rapid implementation of protocols designed to protect your children.

In response to information received from the Comox Valley RCMP very early this morning, three secondary school sites were closed and all elementary schools were advised to implement our “**Hold and Secure**” protocol. **Hold and Secure** is implemented when there is concern that a potential threat to safety exists in the community. During a **Hold and Secure** school staff lock all external doors and monitor entry and exit to ensure that the threat remains outside of our schools. Depending upon the nature of the threat, near normal school operations can proceed with very little impact on students.

Please know that events such as today occur often in the absence of clear information. Schools respond in a timely manner despite this to safeguard your children. As well, communications in times such as this can be challenging but we endeavour to provide as much information as possible in a timely fashion.

Knowing this, we have already begun the process of reviewing today’s events to improve both our response and our communications.

We wish to thank parents for their patience, understanding today as well as for your feedback.

For greater detail on our emergency protocols, please follow the link below.

<http://www.sd71.bc.ca/About/publications/Documents/School%20Emergency%20Program/School%20Emergency%20Program%20-%20Critical%20Incident%20Notification.pdf>

Paul Berry, Director of Instruction-Health and Safety
paul.berry@sd71.bc.ca