



RESTART PLAN

Thursday May 28, 2020

On Friday May 15 the BC Government announced a return to in-class instruction within the school environment for all K-12 schools in the province. Our school has received guidelines and protocols from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, WorkSafe BC and CISVA for supporting the health and safety of staff and students during the return to school. The return to in-class instruction is based on the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in B.C. We have looked at what has worked and not worked in other jurisdictions and have considered this in our planning.

The following are some answers to frequently asked questions sent our way. The complete and comprehensive Restart Plan was sent to you last week and is also under the COVID-19 Tab on the front page of our website.

Is it safe for children to attend school?

Yes, schools are safe to attend. Guidelines issued by the Provincial Health Officer indicate that most children and youth are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection. COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children and youth. In BC, less than 1 percent of children and youth tested have been COVID-19 positive.

- The Provincial Health Officer has advised that it is safe for us to move to this stage of opening schools. If it wasn't safe to do so, we wouldn't be opening our schools.
- The health and safety of staff and students is our top priority. The science and research so far tell us that children under 19 are at low risk of transmitting COVID-19 and suspending schools only has modest impacts in minimizing the spread of the virus. The accompanying COVID-19 news article: <https://theprovince.com/news/local-news/covid-19-active-cases-continue-to-fall-in-b-c/wcm/6671660e-b911-49a3-ae80-597104bc877e>
- At the same time, we will adjust our planned gradual approach to transitioning more students back into the classroom as we go along.

Will students be screened when arriving at school?

Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school.

- Staff and students who are ill will not be permitted to attend school.
- Provincial Health Office guidelines indicate schools do not have any role in screening students or staff by checking temperatures or COVID-19 testing. Such activities are reserved for health care professionals.

What happens if someone gets sick at school?

Do not send your child to attend school if he/she is ill.

- If children experience any illness symptoms while attending school, parents/guardians will be expected to pick up their children immediately.

Will there be beverage/food services at school?

The cafeteria kitchen will be closed. We are asking that a lunch be brought from home.

- The water fountains will be disabled, but the water bottle filler stations will remain in service. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle from home.
- Students will be reminded not to share drinks or food.
- The snack and drink machines will be available, and their keypads will be sanitized between each class.
- Off-campus privileges at lunch time will be extended to all grades for the next 2 weeks of June.