

August 21, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

School District No. 91 has developed a proposed district-wide plan for back to school in September guided by the Ministry of Education, the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control. Our proposed plan was submitted to the Ministry of Education on August 21st and once approved will be posted publicly by August 26th on both the School District and Ministry of Education websites. Under the government's Five-Stage Plan, school will resume under Stage 2 in September. Full time instruction will take place within learning groups. The proposed plan, which requires the Ministry of Education's approval, will help ensure the safe return for students and staff.

School Operations

SD 91 students will attend school every day under Stage 2 of the government's plan. Enhanced health and safety measures will be in place before students return to schools. We want to provide you with as much information as possible about our proposed plans. We have attached fact sheets to this letter outlining details about health and safety measures you can expect, as well as information about students' return to their elementary and secondary schools.

First Week of School

As previously announced by government, the first two days of this school year, Sept. 8th & 9th, will see only staff in schools. During this time, our educators will review all health and safety measures and the specifics of our Stage 2 plan.

We will continue to share information and updates in the coming weeks, from your schools directly, as well as on the District's website and social media channels. Our plans prioritize student learning, safely maximize instructional time and will endeavor to keep your children connected to their teachers and schools. Thank you for your patience as we continue to refine and finalize our plans.

Manu Madhok
Superintendent of Schools

FACT SHEET: **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The health, safety and well-being of students and staff is our number one priority. All health and safety guidelines directed by the Provincial Public Health Office and the Ministry of Education will be implemented in all schools.

Students, their families and staff can expect:

Enhanced health and safety protocols that will include:

- Enhanced cleaning.
- Frequent hand washing/sanitizing.
- Reminders to reduce physical contact and maximize physical distancing in all schools.
- Frequent reminders about respiratory etiquette will take place.
- Daily self-health assessments for all staff and students.
 - If a student or staff member is sick, they must stay home.
 - If someone becomes sick while at school, they will be kept separate from others until they can be picked up or able to return home.
- Staggered pick-up and drop-off times are being planned for and further information will be shared with parents as plans are finalized. Information regarding school breaks, including recess and lunch times, will be shared by your school.
- All students will be reminded not to share their personal belongings, food or beverages.
- As in June, entry into all schools will be limited to staff and students. Other visitors can request an appointment through school offices.
- Directional signage and spacing reminders will be posted in all schools.
- Masks will be provided through funding from the provincial government.
 - Every high school student and all SD 91 staff members will be given masks when they return to school.
 - Students and staff will have the choice to wear a mask in the classroom.
 - Secondary students will wear masks while on school buses and in high traffic areas, like hallways, and any time they are outside of the classroom or learning group and they cannot physically distance from others.
 - Staff in both elementary and secondary schools will wear masks while in high traffic areas, like hallways, and any time they are outside of the classroom or learning group and they cannot physically distance from others.
 - Mask use and hygiene will be regularly reviewed in schools.
- School windows will be open when possible. School HVAC systems will be set to increase the intake of outside air and to maximize air exchange in classrooms.

FACT SHEET: ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Our proposed plan to the Ministry of Education will ensure students are able to return to school as safely as possible and support their learning and development needs.

Under Stage 2 of the government's Five-Stage Plan for the education system, elementary schools will run full time with students having in-person instruction.

- Students will learn the BC Curriculum as they would normally.
- Families will begin to hear from their child's school the week of August 24. Information will continue to be shared with families on a weekly basis leading up to the start of school attendance.
- Schools will schedule breaks and outdoor time for students.
- Although learning groups can be up to 60 students and staff maximum, the students' individual class will be their main learning group.
 - This will enable consistent learning groups if the pandemic requires schools to move between other stages.
 - Students can socialize with peers in different learning groups if they are outdoors and can minimize physical contact, as noted in the provincial guidelines.
- Instruction will take place in the school setting.
- All health and safety measures prescribed by the Provincial Health Office will be in place.
 - Handwashing or sanitizing stations are in place in all schools.
 - Reminders about respiratory etiquette and limiting physical contact will be frequently shared with students and incorporated into classroom lessons.
 - Our staff will wear masks while in high traffic areas like hallways or when outside of their learning group.
 - Students and staff who wish to wear masks in class can do so.
- Access to schools will be limited to staff and students. Other visitors can request an appointment through the school office.
- Traffic flow in common spaces will be managed with directional signs.
- The Ministry's requirements state that students who are registered in a school are expected to attend school in-person unless they have health concerns.
 - Options for students who cannot return because of health concerns will be shared with families through their child's school.
- Students will attend school during the first week on either September 10th or 11th and confirmation will be shared by your school. All students will begin regular attendance at school on Monday, September 14th.
- School Bus schedules will be shared with parents prior to the start of school.

FACT SHEET: SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Under Stage 2 of the government's Five-Stage Plan for the education system, School District No. 91's proposed plan will see secondary students attend school each day.

Learning groups at the secondary level are limited to 120 people maximum.

- FSJSS, NVSS and FLESS will all move to a quarter system (2 courses every 10 weeks) while LDSS will remain with the existing semester system (4 courses per day.)
- All our secondary schools are committed to serving all their students but wish to assure parents that our plans enable students to continue on their chosen graduation plan.
- Students with diverse learning needs will be supported.
- Teachers will use and orient students to Microsoft Teams to ensure that in the event we are required to move to a more remote stage of school operations, students are adequately prepared.
- When students are placed in courses that involve mixed learning groups, these will occur in spaces that will accommodate adequate physical distancing.
- Learning assessments will be ongoing, and parents will continue to be provided interims and report cards.
- Our secondary schools will share specific information regarding breaks and lunch times.

All health and safety measures prescribed by the Provincial Health Office will be in place.

- Handwashing or sanitizing stations are in place in all schools.
- There will be frequent reminders about practising respiratory etiquette and maintaining physical distance.
- Access to schools will be limited to staff and students. Visitors can request an appointment through the school office.
- Traffic flow in common spaces will be managed through directional signs.
- Masks will be provided through funding from the provincial government.
 - Every student and staff member will be given masks when they return to school.
 - Students and staff will have the choice to wear a mask in the classroom.
 - Secondary students will wear masks while on school buses and in high traffic areas, like hallways, and any time they are outside of the classroom or learning group and they cannot physically distance from others.
 - Mask use and hygiene will be regularly reviewed in schools.

School administrators or counsellors can help provide options to families who have health needs to ensure students' learning is supported.

Appendix B: Daily Health Check Example

The following can be used as an example of a tool that can be used for parents and caregivers to complete prior to their child coming to school. It should be adapted if used for school staff and visitors.

Daily Health Check			
1. Symptoms of Illness*	Does your child have any of the following symptoms?	CIRCLE ONE	
	Fever	YES	NO
	Chills	YES	NO
	Cough or worsening of chronic cough	YES	NO
	Shortness of breath	YES	NO
	Sore throat	YES	NO
	Runny nose / stuffy nose	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of smell or taste	YES	NO
	Headache	YES	NO
	Fatigue	YES	NO
	Diarrhea	YES	NO
	Loss of appetite	YES	NO
	Nausea and vomiting	YES	NO
	Muscle aches	YES	NO
	Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	YES	NO
	Dizziness, confusion	YES	NO
	Abdominal pain	YES	NO
	Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes	YES	NO
2. International Travel	Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Are you or is anyone in your household a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	YES	NO

*Check BCCDC's [Symptoms of COVID-19](#) regularly to ensure the list is up to date.

If you answered “YES” to any of the questions and the symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies) your child should **NOT** come to school.

If they are experiencing any symptoms of illness, contact a health-care provider for further assessment. This includes 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.

If you answered “YES” to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if you should be tested for COVID-19.

If you have fever, a new cough, or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.

