



Dear Parents/Guardians

January 9, 2022

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked through the delayed return to school. We are looking forward to seeing your children on Monday, January 10. Schools have revised their plans to emphasize health protocols with the most up-to-date information. Please visit this [LINK](#) for additional Provincial and District information.

Public Health has highlighted that while Omicron transmission is more rapid, severe disease impacts are lessened, especially among the vaccinated population. Due to the nature and rapid spread of this variant, individual contract tracing will no longer continue from Public Health Authorities. More information can be found in the [Return to School Q & A](#) document.

We do not know what the landscape will look like over the next few weeks or months, but we anticipate some staffing challenges will impact educational services like other sectors. The District is developing contingency plans in case of a [Functional Closure scenario](#).

We ask that families look at backup plans if we need to shift to remote home learning for a short duration. We realize this will be a challenge for some families and want to give as much notice, if possible.

Student (or their Parent/Guardian) Responsibilities

- Completing a daily health check, regularly monitoring illness symptoms, and staying home when sick.
- Completing any reporting tool provided by Public Health if they test positive for COVID-19 (regardless of test type), including providing all school-related information requested
- Specifying that the absence is illness-related when notifying their school of an absence.
 - As supported by public health, students and staff do not need to disclose if their absence is specific to COVID-19; however, those who test positive for COVID-19 should be diligent in ensuring their school is aware their absence is illness-related
- When a student or staff can return from illness depends on the type of symptoms, testing, and other factors. See [the THRIVE app](#) or [BCCDC](#) for guidance
- Continuing to follow public health guidance and recommendations, including proper mask-wearing

If a Functional Closure Occurs:

- Essential health workers children or children with diverse and complex needs could attend if staffing levels are sufficient to provide a safe environment
- Schools have developed flexible multi-day home learning package/resources that students could work on in the event of a closure
- Schools will have strategies in place to allow parents to access or pick up home resources
- A Functional Closure could be several days to over a week, depending on the circumstances
 - Schools would shift to remote learning with staff checking in on student progress

- The first day of a functional closure will be a day used by staff to coordinate remote home learning

Parent/Guardian Communication

- The initial communication to parents of a functional school closure (full or partial closure) will come from the principal, at the direction of the Superintendent.
- Communication platforms will include the ***SD91 Facebook page*** and ***District website***. Schools will continue to use their usual communication methods for updates.
 - We encourage all parents/guardians to ensure their contact information (email and phone #) are current with the school office

This continues to be a challenging environment and we appreciate the ongoing patience and understanding as we navigate the pandemic.

Parents/guardians should reach out to their school principal if they have questions.