

Updated health and safety guidelines for the new school year

August 26, 2021

Following the B.C. government's announcement on August 24, the Vancouver School District is expecting a full return to in-class instruction on September 8, 2021. Additionally, masks will once again be mandatory for all staff and students from grade 4 to 12 while indoors at school. Students in kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged to wear a mask while at school.

The health, safety and well-being of students and staff continues to be a top priority. In preparation for back to school, the District has worked hard over the summer break to ensure improvements to school sites provide for a safe, healthy and supportive learning environment. Ventilation systems were inspected and updated at all 108 schools. Updates included rebuilding aging motors, replacing drive belts, repairing stuck louvres, updating controls and changing approximately 7,000 filters district wide.

Schools in the District continue to implement all layers of protection as advised by health officials to limit the spread of COVID-19. In addition to mask wearing, COVID-19 safety measures such as preventing crowding, spreading out within available space and frequent hand hygiene to limit the spread of the virus will also be in place. District staff will also continue to:

- clean high touch surfaces frequently (once per day)
- post directional signage to manage traffic flow and prevent crowding
- implement daily self-health checks for students and staff
- increase outdoor learning opportunities wherever possible

Everyone in Vancouver's schools is excited to welcome students back to school in-person. We are moving forward from last year and look forward to a year of learning, sports, music and other extracurricular activities in person. We ask that you continue to follow [B.C.'s health and safety guidelines](#) in school settings, adhere to the [B.C. Restart Plan](#) outside of school settings, and if eligible, get your [first and/or second dose of the vaccine](#) as we work together toward a return to normal.

For more information, read [the B.C. government's news release](#), or see the [updated K-12 Education Recovery Plan](#).