

**Each secondary school distributed a letter to their school community containing the information below.**

**Important Information – Please Translate**

這是一份重要資訊 — 請找人為您翻譯 這是一份重要信息 — 請找人为您翻译

Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika

Thông tin quan trọng - Xin tìm phiên dịch

ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ-ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰੋ/ਕਰਵਾਓ

महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी - कृपया अनुवाद करें	중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다
Información importante - Por favor traducir	معلومات مهمة - الرجاء الترجمة
重要な情報-翻訳してください	اطلاعات مهم - لطفا ترجمه کنید

September 3, 2021

Dear school community,

Everyone is excited to welcome students back to school on September 8, 2021! As announced by provincial government, the District is expecting a full return to in-person learning starting September 2021. We are looking forward to a year of learning, sports, music and other extracurricular activities in person.

The health, safety and well-being of students and staff continues to be a top priority. The Vancouver School District's plan will provide for a safe, healthy and supportive learning environment. A variety of COVID-19 health and safety protocols and procedures, as advised by health officials, will be in place again this year to help keep everyone safe.

### **Daily health assessments**

All students and staff are required to complete a daily health check prior to coming to school. Students and staff who have COVID symptoms and/or feel unwell should not attend school.

Parents and caregivers are responsible for assessing their children daily before sending them to school. The [K to 12 Health Check website](#) and app is an easy way to decide if your child should attend school based on their symptoms. You can download the app on your device:

- [iOS devices \(iPhone/iPad\)](#)
- [Android devices](#)

Daily health checklists are available here: [English](#), [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#), [عربي](#), [简体中文](#), [繁體中文](#), [Français](#), [فارسی](#), [Tagalog](#)

### **If your child becomes ill while at school**

Any child experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms will be moved to a secluded space, such as a first-aid room or designated health room, where they will be supervised and supported by staff. Parents/guardians will be notified and advised to pick-up their child as soon as possible.

Please ensure that the school has your current contact information, including emergency contact information, to ensure timely pick-up.

### **Wearing masks**

As required in provincial guidelines, all staff, students in grades 4 to 12 and visitors are required to wear masks in all indoor areas, including:

- At their desks
- On school buses

Exceptions include:

- A person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons
- A person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask.
- If a person is eating or drinking
- If a person is behind a barrier
- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (for example, a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.

### **Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette**

School staff will continue to focus on the importance of frequent hand washing (hand sanitizing) and of proper respiratory etiquette, such as coughing/sneezing into your sleeve or into a tissue. Over the past several months the District has replaced faucets in all Vancouver schools to enable proper hand washing. Schools have also been provided with hand sanitizing stations for common areas, classrooms without sinks and at entry and exit locations.

### **Cleaning and disinfecting schools**

Like last year, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting will take place in every school in the District. This will include ensuring that all frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected at least once every 24 hours.

### **School Visitors**

Schools in Vancouver will continue to welcome in-person visitors by appointment only. If you would like to make an in-person appointment, please contact your school. All visitors are required to wear a mask, complete a daily health check and follow all COVID-safety guidelines.

### **Keeping your distance**

Schools will continue to create space between students. This will include management of the movement of students in common areas such as hallways and stairwells to prevent crowding. Students will also be reminded to respect the personal space of others, to keep distance between themselves and others, and, to spread out as much as possible. We will also continue to take students outdoors, as much as possible, to engage in learning opportunities.

### **Ventilation**

Over the past year, significant improvements to ventilation systems have been made at all schools. This work has included making repairs and upgrades to mechanical systems, replacing and upgrading

filters, setting controls to maximize the intake of outside air into learning spaces. Work has also been done to make sure windows in learning spaces can be opened to provide good ventilation.

### **More information**

More information about plans and guidelines to keep schools in British Columbia open and safe can be found [here](#). The District continues to encourage everyone who is eligible, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Details about vaccinations are available [here](#).

### **Secondary Schedule for 2021-22**

As we prepare for a full return, we want to remind students and families that we are implementing a new semester schedule. The new schedule is designed to better meet the needs of learners and is based on feedback received last year from students, families, teachers and school-based and District staff.

#### **Semester 1**

September 8, 2021 - January 31, 2022

#### **Semester 2**

February 1 - June 29, 2022

Students will take four courses from September to January and another four courses from February to June. The adoption of the semester model will see a standard timetable and bell schedule across all secondary schools. School will begin at 8:40 a.m. and finish at 3:06 p.m. This schedule is consistent across all secondary schools in the District and meets the instructional hours set out in the *BC School Act*.

The new timetable also includes two 50-minute periods of flexible instructional time per week. This is instructional time designed to support students' personalized learning. The intent is to build-in flexibility and choice within a student's schedule that allows them to determine how, when and where their learning takes place, to access extra help from teachers, collaborate with peers and pursue other learning activities. During this time, all staff will be on site and students will be supported in determining how to use this flexible instructional time. To find out more about this schedule change, visit the [District's website](#).