



Fact Sheet: Elementary Schools in Vancouver

The Vancouver School District's 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, in Vancouver, 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 classes will use Microsoft TEAMS – even with in-person learning – so students and staff can smoothly transition between stages, if needed and directed by the provincial government.
- 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.
 - Every student and staff member will be given masks when they return to school.
 - All staff and elementary students in Grades 6 and 7 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.

Watch our [video](#) about the return to elementary schools