

Health & Safety Information: Elementary Schools

District and school-based staff look forward to welcoming students back to school. Families of elementary students are asked to carefully read the information below in its entirety. It includes important health and safety information for students' return to school, as well as details about pick-up and drop-off processes, school activities and supplies.

School staff will:

- Encourage regular hand washing
- Maximize physical distancing
- Minimize physical contact
- Ensure additional cleaning measures are in place

IMPORTANT: Daily Health Check for Students Attending In-Class Instruction

Below are key requirements that all students and families must be aware of and adhere to while attending in-class instruction.

If your child is ill or has COVID-19 symptoms:

Parents or caregivers must keep their child at home until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases, and their symptoms have resolved.

If you are unsure of your child's health condition or if they have COVID-19-like symptoms, contact 8-1-1 for guidance. 8-1-1 is a free-of-charge provincial health information and advice phone line available in British Columbia.

If your child becomes ill while at school:

As per guidance from health authorities, any child exhibiting 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 until they are picked up by a parent/guardian.

Parents/guardians will be notified and advised to pick-up their child as soon as possible. Please ensure that the school has current contact information, including emergency contact information, to ensure timely pick-up. Also, please ensure that you are always accessible by phone during the school day if your child is attending school, and, be prepared to pick-up your child/ren.

Conduct Daily Self-Assessments:

Parents/guardians **must** assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. If your child is ill, they must remain home.

In addition, a student may **not** attend school if:

- they have travelled outside of BC in the last 14 days;
- they have had contact with a known COVID-19 case, or if another person in their home has symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease, even if your child remains asymptomatic (i.e. does not show signs of being ill); and/or
- a doctor or other medical professional has advised them to self-isolate.

To help maintain a healthy learning environment, staff, families and students are asked to practise good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (i.e. coughing and sneezing into your sleeve).

Please review this with your child on a regular basis.

IMPORTANT: Schedule, school activities and supplies

Scheduling

Families with elementary school children will be contacted by a school staff member with specific details for student in-class attendance.

Student entering/exiting to the school and drop-off and pick-up times

Families with elementary school children will be contacted by a school staff member with specific details for about the entry and exist details for students attending in-class instruction. These plans are designed to avoid gatherings of more than 50 people at one time.

- It will be essential to be **on time** and arrive at your designated drop-off and pick-up times. The entry/exit your child will use will be communicated by the teacher. Families will line-up at a designated place and be welcomed by their teacher. Family members will **not** be allowed to enter the school.
- **Only authorized staff and students will be permitted to enter the school building** unless by appointment with the school principal and for exceptional circumstances.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

- Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival each day, throughout the day (i.e. after using the washroom, moving from outdoors to indoors, meal times, etc.) and before leaving. Classrooms without sinks have been supplied with hand sanitizer.

Bringing in/use of personal materials

- We encourage students to bring their personal materials to minimize physical contact and use of shared materials. Please label your child's water bottle, supplies and everything they bring to school. ONLY water bottle filling stations will be available to refill bottles.
- Students will eat their lunch and snacks in their classrooms. Lunches and snacks are to come to school in the morning with the students – there will be **no** drop-off lunches or snacks accepted. Please pack lunches that:
 - Do not need reheating
 - Are nut free
 - Children can eat independently
- Wearing a mask is a personal choice. Any mask will have minimal effect if not used together with other preventative measures. The most effective preventative measures include washing hands, maximizing physical distance and minimizing physical touch. It is important to treat people wearing masks with respect.
- Use of materials, equipment and manipulatives in classrooms will be minimized.

While everyone at the Vancouver School District looks forward to reconnecting with students, it is important to note that the days will look different. Schedules for staff and students will vary and sometimes your child will see familiar faces and friends, and sometimes they may be working with new friends and staff. Also, siblings may be scheduled on different days.

The goal is to balance students' educational needs within a safe, supportive environment. School is a place where children learn and grow. These past two months have been a challenge for us all, so we are very much looking forward to seeing and greeting our students' smiling faces.