

Health & Safety Information: Secondary Schools

District and school-based staff look forward to welcoming students back to school. Families of secondary students are asked to carefully read the information below in its entirety. It includes important health and safety information for students' return to school.

School staff will:

- Encourage regular hand washing
- Maximize physical distancing
- Minimize physical touch
- Ensure additional cleaning measures

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 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. School staff will contact the student's parents/guardians and will coordinate a plan for the student to return home.

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.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

- Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival each day, throughout the day (after using the washroom, before/after eating, 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 open to refill bottles.
- 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 including washing hands, maximizing physical distancing and minimizing physical touch. It is important to treat people wearing masks with respect.

We are happy to welcome your children back to school. The information above will help us all keep one another safe and healthy as together we continue our learning journey.