



May 28, 2020

Hello Parents/Guardians,

You are receiving this communication because you have indicated to us via the Gradual Return to School Survey or other communication, that you plan for your child(ren) to attend in-person instruction at Tecumseh.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school. Please ensure you 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:**

If your child is ill, with any common cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, your child **must stay home** and isolate for 10 days following the onset of symptoms or until symptoms resolve. If a student is assessed by their family physician or nurse practitioner and it is determined that they do not have COVID-19, they may return to school earlier than 10 days but only after symptoms resolve.

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 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**

- K—5 students will attend Tecumseh for full day in-person instruction on Mondays and Tuesdays (9:00 am to 3:00 pm)
  - Monday, June 1, 2020 will be the start date for K—5 students who have indicated “yes” they are returning.
- Grades 6/7 students will attend Tecumseh for full day in-person instruction on Wednesdays (9:00 am to 3:00 pm)
  - Wednesday, June 3, 2020 will be the start date for Grades 6/7 students
- If you are an Essential Services Worker (ESW) and have indicated “yes” your child will be attending school. We have taken your wishes into account in our planning. Grade 6/7 children of ESWs may start on Monday, June 1, 2020

**Important:** If you have indicated “no” on the Gradual Return to School Survey, we have not planned for the return of your child on June 1<sup>st</sup>—please contact the Main Office at 604-713-5390 so that we can include your child in the planning for June 8<sup>th</sup> gradual return to school

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

- The school day will be from 9:00 am—3:00 pm. Please drop off and pick-up your child(ren) as close to these times as possible. All students will be dismissed at 3:00 pm.

- Please see the attached map—we have carefully planned for students to line-up outside before school starts. Specifically:
  - Students with classes on our **Basement Floor**, will line up, physically distanced at their Division cones outside the **East Entrance** of the school
  - Students with classes on the **Main Floor**, will line up, physically distanced at their Division cones outside the **Main Entrance of the school** (East 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue door)
  - Students with classes on the **Top Floor**, will line up, physically distanced at their Division cones on the **basketball court area**
- At 9:00 am, Teachers/Staff will come to the designated areas to pick up the students and lead them into the school building.
- This plan has been thoughtfully developed to limit the number of people who will congregate in any one area and to encourage easy physical distancing.
- For student pick-up at 3:00 pm, please wait for your child(ren) outside, at the same area where you dropped them off. The teachers/staff will walk the students out to their designated area.
- Family members will not be allowed to enter the school in order to minimize the number of adults in the building.
- **Only authorized staff and students will be permitted to enter the school building.** Entrance to the school building by parents/guardians will be by appointment with the Principal/Vice 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.
- 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.

#### **A few more reminders:**

- During break times and throughout the day, students will be going outside for fresh air. Please dress for the weather—hats, sunscreen, rain coats, etc.

- All water fountains at school are closed. Please label your child's water bottle and send sufficient water with them for the day.
- VSB Playground structures will be open for use on June 1<sup>st</sup>. At the direction of their teacher, students will wash their hands before their outside time and wash their hands afterwards. We understand that physical distancing between elementary school children is not realistically possible at all times—students will be consistently encouraged to do their best to maximize physical distance and minimize physical contact.

While we look forward to reconnecting with your children, we want you to know 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 your child's educational needs within a safe, supportive environment. We all are very excited to see your children very soon! 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.

We will remain flexible to your decisions. If you have answered "yes" to your child(ren)'s return to school, but have changed your mind and will not be sending your child, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible. We will adjust our plans accordingly.

If you have any questions, please feel welcome to contact me or our Vice Principal, Mr. Webber at 604-713-5390.

Sincerely,

Mr. V. Edwards  
Principal