



FAQs: In-class instruction resumes

On May 15, 2020, the provincial government announced a partial resumption of in-class instruction beginning June 1. Please note that in-class attendance is voluntary and the decision rests with students' families.

What are some measures that will be implemented to support the health and safety of students and staff?

All schools will follow the direction of the Provincial Health Officer. These include limiting the number of children attending, possible staggered pick-up and drop-off times as well as recess, lunch, and time outdoors. Upon arrival at school, students and staff will wash and/or sanitize their hands. Opportunities for frequent handwashing will be provided. Classrooms with sinks will be stocked with soap and paper towels. Classrooms without sinks will have access to be hand sanitizer stations. Students will be reminded about the steps they can take to keep themselves and others healthy and staff will model these behaviours throughout the school day.

How will physical distancing be implemented in schools?

Adolescent children should physically distance themselves where possible when outside the family unit or household. For younger children, maintaining physical distance is less practical and Provincial Health Office guidelines focus on minimizing physical contact instead.

The following physical distancing strategies will be implemented where possible in the K-12 school setting:

- Students will be reminded to avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, high-fives, handshakes, etc.).
- Students will be reminded about keeping their “hands to yourself”.
- People will be spread out into different areas via different classroom and learning environment configurations to allow distance between students and adults (e.g., different desk and table formations).
- Students will be organized into smaller groups so that they stay together throughout the day. Staffing assignments will minimize the number of different teachers and support staff that interact with groups of students throughout the day.
- Pick-up and drop-off times may be staggered.
- Recess/snack, lunch and class transition times may be staggered to provide a greater amount of space for everyone.
- Many students will have more outside time including learning activities, snack time and place-based learning
- For younger students, group activities will be adapted to minimize physical contact and reduce shared items.

- For adolescent students, group activities will be minimized and avoid activities that require physical contact.
- Traffic flows will be managed to limit the number of people in common areas, including hallways.
- Parents, caregivers, and other non-staff adults will not be allowed to enter the school building without a pre-arranged appointment.
- Staff will remind children and each other to practice diligent hand hygiene.
- Assemblies and other school-wide events will be held virtually.
- Students will be reminded about washing their hands frequently, about coughing, and sneezing etiquette as well as keeping physical distance from each other.
- Students will be reminded not to share food, drinks, utensils, or belongings.

Will students go through screening measures when arriving at schools?

Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. Children who show any signs of illness should stay at home and parents must notify the school. Staff and students who are ill will not be permitted to attend school.

All students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, or travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days, or were identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate, including children of essential service workers who are ill.

If you are unsure if your child should self-isolate, use the [BC COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool](#), contact 8-1-1, or the local public health unit to seek further advice. Families can also contact a family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory diseases. Public Health will advise families on appropriate protocols with respect to a student who has been in contact with someone who may have COVID-19.

Provincial Health Office guidelines indicate schools do not have any role in screening students or staff for symptoms, checking temperatures or COVID-19 testing. Such activities are reserved for health care professionals.

Will children and staff wear masks?

According to the guidelines provided by the Provincial Health Officer, wearing a cloth or homemade mask, particularly by children, is not recommended. However, wearing a mask is a personal choice. It is important that people who decide to wear masks are treated with respect. Parents and staff can teach and reinforce these practices amongst students.

What measures are in place to ensure schools are disinfected?

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. Schools will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BC Centre for Disease Control's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document.

This includes:

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises should occur at least once a day.
- Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day.

How will textbooks and other school supplies be cleaned?

According to the Provincial Health Office guidelines there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper, or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution or sharing of books or paper-based educational resources to students because of COVID-19.

What is the schedule for in-class instruction?

The survey provides a tentative schedule for students. As schools will be developing schedules that may include staggered start and end times, principals will be in contact with parents near the end of next week to confirm a child's arrival and end time. This would be done to help facilitate physical distancing at schools.

Will siblings of different age ranges/grade groupings be able to attend on the same day/s?

The district schedule has been developed to have family last name determine the days that students attend school across the district.

Will my child's learning suffer if they do not attend?

Remote learning will continue to be a focus of student learning in this stage of return. Students who attend will be able to get more direct teacher support for their remote learning assignments. To allow teachers to continue offering direct support and continued remote learning, classroom instruction will look different than it has in the past.

If my child/ren attend in-person, will they also be expected to complete assignments and work from home?

Teachers will continue to plan lessons and provide learning opportunities for students whether they attend in-person or online.

Will my child have the same teacher as they did before?

Efforts will be made to keep students with their usual teacher. However, this may not be possible for every class. Staffing decisions will be made in consideration of the health and safety of students and staff.

I am an essential services worker. What support is available for my child?

The announcement to resume in-class instruction on a part-time basis by the government provides for up to 100 per cent in-class support at school for [Tier 1 and Tier 2 Essential Service Workers](#).

My child has special needs and a ministry designation. How will their learning be supported?

Children with exceptional learning needs will continue to be supported in their learning. As such, they may have an opportunity to attend school each day, continue learning remotely or a combination of both. Planning is currently underway to determine schedules and supports for in-class learning. As details are worked out, school staff will be in contact with families of students with exceptional learning needs who may benefit from additional in-class support.

Will there be before- and after-school care available?

Before and after-school care may be available through regular private program providers. If a program was offered at your child's school, it may continue to operate. Please contact the childcare provider directly for more information.

Is there childcare for younger children, not enrolled in schools?

Childcare providers that operate on school property may continue to operate. Please contact the childcare provider directly for more details. Information about childcare providers can be found online.

How will students' marks be impacted if they attend versus if they continue with remote learning?

Students will receive marks based on their learning progress regardless if they attend in-class instruction on a part-time basis or continue to learn remotely.

Will students be able to use playgrounds or play sports?

The District is currently in discussions with local municipalities regarding our playgrounds and sports courts and will have more information shortly about when they will open. Guidelines issued by the Provincial Health Office do not prohibit playground time nor sports. However, to minimize physical contact, these activities may be limited. Students may instead have more unstructured play or place-based play.

Will there be field trips for students?

Unfortunately, field trips will not take place for the remainder of the school year. However, increased time outdoors will be incorporated into the school day.