

Hello Everyone,

As promised yesterday - below is a LENGTHY email from the District somewhat personalized by me - regarding returning to Baker Drive. There is a VERY important survey that MUST be completed for EACH child in your family - please read ALL of your options carefully and in particular the new option of Gradual Transition. While I know it is time consuming to read such a lengthy message and may repeat some of what I shared previously - please persevere to the end of the message. Send me any questions.



**(There is a VERY IMPORTANT Survey link for you to complete for each child at the end of this message)**

August 28, 2020

Dear Parents,

As you know from my many communications The Ministry of Education announced that BC schools will open in Stage 2. Most students are expected to attend classes daily and schools WILL NOT be able to provide the remote learning options with the classroom teacher providing both in-class and remote learning to the same group of students as we did in June. Please review your options as described in the survey – LINK BELOW.

**Detailed Information: Orientation Week**

Thursday, September 10th is the first “official” day of school for STUDENTS.  Read more here:  <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-education-restart-plan.pdf>.

Tuesday, September 8th, Wednesday, September 9th - staff only - reviewing and implementing safety procedures within the school.

The Ministry also has a site with information for parents: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

The District, working under the guidance of public health authorities and the Ministry of Education, has submitted a detailed plan to the Ministry to ensure that students and staff can be in community as safely as possible.  While school will look different, as health and safety are critical factors in our planning, teaching and learning remains our core purpose.

**Health and Safety Required Protocols**

* BEFORE arriving at school/work all members of the community are required to perform a health check – checklist will be provided, parents are responsible for reviewing this with their children daily
* Any member of the Baker Community who experiences symptoms and feels unwell (cold, flu or [showing Covid-19 symptoms](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms)) must stay home. This is seen as POSITIVE and very supportive of our overall community. Always err on the side of caution.
* When a child becomes ill during the school day, they will be sheltered from their Learning Group/class with an adult and parents contacted to come as soon as possible. Our safe space is the Music Room.
* Families arriving from outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days before entering school.
* Significantly enhanced cleaning protocols are in place and caretaker time at Baker Drive is increased to include the entire school day – this is particularly  focused on high touch points (doorknobs, faucets, washrooms etc.)
* The school will be deep cleaned daily and the usual round of cleaning twice a day as well as what is described in the bullet above
* Outdoor learning and learning in outdoor spaces will occur wherever possible
* A staggered recess and lunch schedule HAS BEEN adopted to promote physical distancing
  + 5 divisions at a time
  + Assigned play spaces (that rotate)
  + No mixing of Learning Groups
* There will be no large gatherings (assemblies, special events, open house) at this time.
* Elementary students are welcome to wear a mask, but it is not mandatory at this time.
* No sharing of food or drink.
* Parents and visitors must make an appointment to meet with staff. All visitors (District support staff or deliveries) must sign-in  will not enter learning groups.  Virtual meetings will be an option for staff and parents.
* Parents are to practice physical distancing (staying apart 2m) when on school grounds EVEN IF OUTSIDE SCHOOL YOU ARE WITHIN THE BUBBLE OF ANOTHER FAMILY.  This is for your safety and yet more importantly - models appropriate public interactions for your children.
* At Baker Drive I also ask that children go home at the end of the day with their adult and do not remain at school playing on the grounds. Once the school grounds are cleared – after 3:30 – families may return to the playground as they normally would. There is to be NO gathering on school property for children to play with friends outside of learning groups in the 30-40 minutes before or after school.
* Children are not to be brought to school and dropped off early to play – they will be expected to wait, physically distanced, in their assigned classroom line.

Learning Groups

* A [Learning Group](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school#learning-group) is defined as a group of students and staff who remain together for an extended period of time and who interact primarily with each other.
  + In the Coquitlam School District, the Learning Group will include your child’s classmates and any staff assigned to work with the students on a regular basis, like your child’s teacher.
  + Within the learning group, while there will be less opportunities to physically distance, classrooms have been organized to facilitate this as much as possible and also to discourage any physical contact
    - tables have dividing barriers
    - less students at tables
    - non-essential furniture removed from the classroom
    - one assigned learning space per student
    - no sharing of materials
  + physical contact will be discouraged.
  + The learning group will stay together.  Students will learn, eat and play together.
  + Class size limits have not changed, therefore a kindergarten class will have no more than 22 students along with the staff who work regularly with the classroom; a primary class with no more than 24; and an intermediate class with no more than 30 students in the group.
  + The Ministry of Education has stated that Learning Groups cannot exceed 60 people at elementary school.  Therefore, our Learning Group sizes are well under the provincial limits outlined in Stage 2.  In most cases our Learning Groups will be kept well below 60.
* Morning, recess, lunch and afterschool schedules and routines have been adjusted to keep Learning Groups distanced as much as possible.
* When children interact with staff outside their learning group, they will be expected to practice physical distancing wherever possible and not engage in physical contact. All adults will be wearing masks and hand washing regularly outside learning groups.   Specialist teachers who work with children from different learning groups (ie. Learning assistance or English as a Second Language) will wear a mask.
* Parents and students will learn who their child’s teacher and Learning Groups/class is before school begins on Monday, September 14th.   We expect Learning Groups to be finalized and students having the opportunity to attend full days beginning September 14th.

Educational Programming

* Baker Drive will be focused on in-class instruction during stage 2.
* Students will spend most of their educational time in their classroom or outside learning spaces,
* Student well-being – building community, culture and connectedness - are guiding educators in planning and supporting the successful return of students to school.
* Students with disabilities/diverse abilities will continue to be supported by the goals outlined in their Individual Education Plans and that will include highly personalized and flexible return to school plans.
* Regular health and safety practices (frequent hand washing) will take up some instructional time.
* There will be an adjusted Welcome to Kindergarten schedule.  Further information will be communicated soon.
* Students will continue to follow the curriculum for their grade and will receive report cards (communication about their learning) as usual.
* Parents of children who are medically diagnosed as immunocompromised by a physician should  contact me ([jreid@sd43.bc.c](mailto:jreid@sd43.bc.c)) by Tuesday, September 1st.  The following links are provided for your reference:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19-IS-Children-FAQ-BCCH.pdf>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19-easing-social-distrancing-IS-children.pdf>

Important Next Steps

It is our goal to have all students return to Baker Drive in a manner most comfortable to them and their family.

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| Some Baker Drive Details   * 9:02 Start – 2:50 Dismissal * Staggered Recess and Lunch – always outside * Half the school outside at a time * Each Learning Group assigned to a play space * All students eating lunch in their classrooms * At their assigned learning space * From 12:20-12:40 * Lunch supervised by an adult * Visitors: must complete a safety screening upon entering the building and provide contact information. Masks will always be required for visitors and adults moving in the halls and common spaces. |

Below is the District plan for Baker Drive students on Thursday, September 10th and Friday, September 11th:

* Thursday, September 10th:
  + Students attend school for a welcome and enrolment count
  + Duration:  10-15 minutes
  + scheduled between 9:00 and 11:45
  + organized by last name
  + Physically distanced
  + Less than 8 per teacher
  + Schedule and protocol sent next week.
* Friday, September 11th:
  + Students will attend safety orientation sessions
  + Duration:  60 minutes
  + Schedule to follow
  + Small groups
  + physically distanced
* Kindergarten Gradual Entry Schedule will be different from what is describe above and communication to kindergarten families will occur next week.

**ACTION NEEDED by Family by Monday, August 31, 2020**

It is imperative that I know of students NOT returning to Baker Drive before I can create the Learning Groups.

The survey below MUST be completed for EACH child in a family.

**Please pay attention to the Gradual Transition description (this is a new opportunity in the last few days**).

 There is other important information in the survey.

 Please read through it all and click on the link describing the various “return to learning” options.

If you are choosing an alternate educational program, such as distributed learning or homeschooling, we cannot guarantee that your child return to Baker Drive should you change your mind this year.

Please complete the survey below for **EACH child** by clicking on the link. There is MORE important information below the link:

Return to Baker Drive Survey

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=74xl2ZICUkKZJWRC3iSkS7V3XajjX9hAvxMXVbCHjuNUQUJINElBMTU5TDg2TkNMV0Q0VThBWk9SSC4u>

**If you know someone who has school aged children and has moved into our neighbourhood, please encourage them to contact (phone or email) the school as soon as possible to arrange registration.**

Please note that the Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Education may decide to move to different stages in response to Covid-19 situation in British Columbia and we will inform you should this occur, advising next steps.

Please find attached a document for your review titled ‘Stage 2 Health and Safety Protocols: K-12 – Parents’.

I will be following up with more information early next week.

I look forward to working with your family this year.

With care,

Jill Reid

Principal

Baker Drive Elementary