

February 4, 2021

Welcome to February – so far, so good, when it comes to our weather. It's been wet, but so far, we haven't had to shovel it – the kids want the snow, but my back is happy!

### **Cross-Catchment Applications Open Friday**

If you are considering applying to a school that is *not* your catchment area school, applications open beginning tomorrow, Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> through February 10<sup>th</sup>. Detailed information about the *cross-catchment* application process can be found on the [Cross Catchment](#) page of the [school district website](#). Applications will be available for download Friday morning, beginning at 9:00 am.

Before Christmas, parents of grade 5 students were sent letters indicating their *catchment* middle school placement. If you wish your child to attend a middle school other than your *catchment* school indicated, you **must** complete the cross-catchment application, even if there is a sibling already attending the desired school. If you do not complete an application, the placement will not be considered.

In order to apply *cross catchment*, you will require your child's Personal Education Number, or PEN, which is found on school report cards. If you have difficulty locating the PEN, please contact the school office and we will provide it for you.

*Please note that while we can advocate for cross-catchment applications, the district process is based on space availability and a random draw, other than for students who already have a sibling attending an out of catchment school. No guarantees can be made that space will be available for cross catchment applicants.*

### **Changes to COVID-19 K-12 Protocols**

You may have heard in media reports that the Ministry of Education and BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) announced updates to the K-12 protocols under which schools operate. Changes to elementary practice were limited. In essence, they include:

- All K-12 staff will wear non-medical masks in all indoor spaces, except when seated or standing at their own desk or workspace, or when eating or drinking
- Non-medical masks must be worn by all students in middle and secondary school, except when seated or standing at their own desk or workspace, or when eating or drinking
- Wearing of non-medical masks for elementary school students is not required but is encouraged, and is the choice of students and families
- High intensity physical activity will be held outdoors as much as possible

Most of these protocols were already in place at Coquitlam River. More information may be coming from the school district, and I will continue to alert you to any further changes to protocols or practices as required.

### **COVID-19 Daily Health Check Reminders**

At the beginning of the school year, we all signed off on the Daily Health Check requirements. As we continue to work to keep this so-called second wave at bay, it's worth a refresher of the check we should be performing on our children before sending them off to school each day.

**1. Symptoms of illness:** Does your child have any of the following symptoms?

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fever                               | <input type="checkbox"/> shortness of breath             | <input type="checkbox"/> nausea and vomiting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> chills                              | <input type="checkbox"/> loss of sense of smell or taste |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cough or worsening of chronic cough | <input type="checkbox"/> diarrhea                        |  |

If you answered "Yes" to one of the symptoms above (excluding fever), your child should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started. If the symptom improves, they may return to school when they feel well enough. If the symptom(s) persists or worsens, seek a health assessment.

If you answered "Yes" to two of the symptoms above or your child has a fever, seek a health assessment. A health assessment includes calling 8-1-1 or visiting or speaking with a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner. If a health assessment is required, your child should not return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and their symptoms have improved.

**2. International Travel:** Has your child returned from travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days?

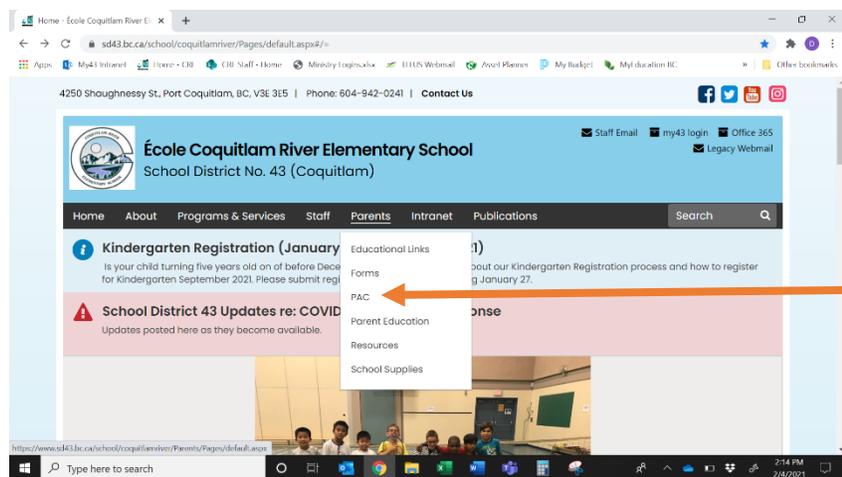
**3. Confirmed Contact:** Is your child a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?

If you answered "YES" to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool \(https://www.thrive.health/bc-self-assessment-tool\)](https://www.thrive.health/bc-self-assessment-tool) to determine if you should seek testing for COVID-19.

It is important that we keep children home if they are exhibiting symptoms – even if we believe it is ‘just a cold.’ When in doubt, please err on the side of caution and keep children at home until symptom-free, or a negative test result has been confirmed, when appropriate. We’re getting there – let’s keep up the good, safe work!

**Check out the PAC section of the website**

Coquitlam River Elementary’s PAC continues to seek ways to improve opportunities for students and families in our school community. Minutes from the monthly PAC meetings, as well as information about fundraising initiatives are posted on the [PAC page](#) (located under the ‘Parents’ menu on the [school website](#)) and updated as new information becomes available. Be sure to check regularly.



**Upcoming Dates to Remember**

**Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> -**  
**Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> -**

BC Family Day Holiday – School Closed  
District-wide Professional Development Day – no school for students