

September 15, 2020

K-12 School Restart: COVID-19 Response Resources Summary

Significant resources have been provided to schools to create a safer environment for students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The district has committed considerable financial support well above normal funding levels. Resource allocations are supportive of the health and safety guidelines provided by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), the Ministry of Education, BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and WorkSafeBC, as applicable.

It is important to keep in mind the best protection is increased personal hand hygiene, physical distancing and enhanced cleaning protocols in facilities.

The following is a summary of resources/supports that have been secured for distribution to schools, as needed:

- Additional custodial staffing - the equivalent of 17 full time positions and increased custodial casual staffing
- 6,000 gallons of hand sanitizer
- Incremental supplies of paper towels
- 180 portable wash stations
- 90,000 reusable masks and face shields
- 50,000 disposable face masks
- Speciality masks for staff, as required (speech language, for example)
- Replenishment of emergency supplies (PPE) that were donated in the spring to our medical first responders and essential service workers
- Twice a day cleaning of high touch points
- Daily (every 24 hours) deep cleaning
- Health Canada approved janitorial cleaning products
- Two medical grade impact cleaning machines (efficient cleaning of surfaces)
- Purchase of five hand-held medical grade portable cleaning machines
- Installation and maintenance of MERV13 Air Filters in all schools
- One touch sink faucets (estimated up to 1,200 installations over the course of the year)
- Hands-free dryers (installations over the course of the year)
- Physical barriers and other plexiglass dividers, where applicable
- Additional computers and assistive technology for students
- Signage including floor decals and safety procedure posters, etc.
- Incremental staffing to support Distributed Learning (online learning) programs
- Incremental staffing to support the School-Based Gradual Transition (SBGTS)