

May 19, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the provincial government announced details of the plan to further re-open schools in British Columbia. For your reference, here is a link to the news release: <https://bit.ly/3cHrsN8>. As I indicated in my [May 12 letter](#), the re-opening of schools is part of a gradual return to in-class instruction in BC. I can now confirm that students will be invited to return to school for in-class learning opportunities starting Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. **Please note that parents will continue to have the option of keeping their children at home to engage in remote learning.**

**Health and Safety:**

The health and safety of our students, staff and families will continue to be our top priority. The government has released two documents that you may wish to review as you are making a decision about sending your child to school in June. Please see the [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#) from the BC Centre for Disease Control and the [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) from the Ministry of Education. These documents outline in detail the health and safety requirements that all schools will be required to follow as more students and staff return to schools.

As school districts just received these documents on May 15<sup>th</sup>, we are still in the early stages of planning for what things will look like in schools in June. What we do know is we will adhere very carefully to the health and safety guidelines set out in these documents in order to ensure that students and staff remain safe. Further details regarding specific health and safety protocols such as enhanced cleaning, physical distancing measures, reduced class sizes and staggered start and end times will be provided to parents by their school principal during the week of May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Student Schedules:**

Students whose parents choose to send them to school in June will attend on a variety of schedules depending on their grade level and individual circumstances:

Elementary Student Schedules:

We know that face-to-face instructional schedules will look different depending on the grade level and individual circumstances of each student:

- Schools will attempt to schedule children from the same family on the same days, however this will depend on the number of students from each grade level who will be attending as well as availability of physical space and teacher staffing.
- Schools will attempt to schedule students with their classroom teacher, however this will depend on the number of students from each class whose parents wish them to attend and the availability of teaching staff. In some cases, teachers other than the classroom teacher may assume responsibility for a group of students.
- Exact groupings and schedules will be developed early in the week of May 25<sup>th</sup> once each school knows the exact number of students whose parents wish them to attend. Schools will provide information to parents about each child's schedule during the week of May 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Kindergarten-Grade Five:*

Students will be invited to attend school two days per week. Students will be divided into smaller groups to ensure that the 'density' of students in class is never more than 50% of what it was prior to the pandemic. Remote learning opportunities will continue for the balance of the students' weekly schedules.

*Grade Six and Seven:*

Students will be invited to attend school the equivalent of one day per week. Students will be divided into smaller groups to ensure that the 'density' of students in class is never more than 50% of what it was prior to the pandemic. Remote learning opportunities will continue for the balance of the students' weekly schedules.

*Children of Essential Services Workers (Kindergarten-Grade Seven):*

Students will continue to be invited to attend five days per week. **Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, students will attend at their home school rather than at the three existing onsite care facilities.**

*Students Who Require Additional Support (K-12):*

Students will be invited to attend five days per week after consultation between the school and parent. Schools will work closely with individual parents to determine appropriate levels of support. Exact schedules and other details will be communicated to parents during the week of May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Secondary (Grade 8-12 Student Schedules):

Students will be invited to attend school the equivalent of approximately one day per week. Students will be divided so that the number of students and staff in the school at any given time is compliant with the provincial health and safety guidelines. Schools are currently working on an instructional model and schedules and will communicate details to parents during the week of May 25<sup>th</sup>. Remote learning opportunities will continue for all students regardless of whether they attend school for face-to-face learning.

**Parent Survey**

In order to plan for a safe and healthy school environment for all students and staff, it is critical that each school is able to determine the exact number of students who will be attending school starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. **ALL parents are asked to please assist us by completing this survey by 4:00 pm on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** indicating whether or not you plan to have your child(ren attend:

Elementary Survey:

<https://survey.sd38.bc.ca/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=92KH5732>

Secondary Survey:

<https://survey.sd38.bc.ca/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=98KH5I95>

**Parents who do not complete the survey by the deadline will not be able to have their child(ren) attend school until they have contacted the school principal so appropriate arrangements can be made in advance of a return.** Parents who choose not to have their child attend school during the week of June 1-5 will have the option of having their child attend starting the week of June 8 should they want to do so. Parents are asked to contact their school principal directly should they change their mind about their child's attendance at school prior to the end of the school year.

We understand that you may have other questions about what things will look like if your child returns to school. After your school staff works through all the details, additional information will be provided to you during the week of May 25<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate your patience as we work through the process to ensure a safe learning and work environment can be provided as students and staff return to schools around the district. In the meantime, please be assured that teachers and educational support staff will continue to provide remote learning opportunities for your child. As always, I would like to thank all parents for the efforts you are making to work alongside your child's school as we continue to work through these very unusual circumstances. We are grateful for your support and patience as we once again re-arrange how learning is offered to our 20,000 students.

Sincerely,



Scott Robinson  
Superintendent of Schools

**Vancouver Coastal Health COVID-19 Public Health Survey:**

***BC COVID-19 SPEAK: Your story, our future*** is a public health survey to understand citizen experiences, knowledge and actions during the COVID-19 pandemic. This survey is open to all British Columbians 18 years or over and is the first of several activities that will strengthen our pandemic response and our understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 to date (social, economic, mental wellness and community wellness).

Visit this page to take the survey: [www.bccdc.ca/covid19survey](http://www.bccdc.ca/covid19survey)

