

Return to School: How can you help us keep our schools, classrooms and community healthy?

September 3, 2020

Dear parent/guardian,

As we open schools to in class instruction for students, it is important for you to know that your child's health and safety is our primary concern. Below are key considerations that we will need students/families to be aware of and observe while participating in our Stage 2 return:

If your Child is Ill:

If a student is ill, with any common cold, influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms including:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Parents/guardians must keep their child at home if experiencing symptoms of illness and should not return to school until they have been assessed by a health-care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved (BC CDC, July 29, 2020).

If a student or staff member is assessed by a health-care provider and it is determined that they do NOT have COVID-19, they may return to school once symptoms resolve.

If you are unsure of your student's status or if they have symptoms contact 811 for guidance.

If your child becomes ill while in School:

- As per guidance from health authorities, any child exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will be moved to a supervision area room, where they will be supervised and supported by staff until they are picked up.
- Parents /Guardians will be notified and advised to pick-up their child as soon as possible. Please ensure that the school has your up to date contact information, including emergency contact information, to ensure timely pickup.

Be Accessible at all times: Please keep your phones on and yourself accessible if you are sending your child to school. If your child is unwell we will ask you to pick up your child/children.

Conduct Daily Self-Assessments:

Parents/guardians must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school as per the [Daily Health Check](#). If a student is ill, with any common cold, influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms, parents/guardians must ensure they do not return to school until they have been assessed by a health-care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved (BC CDC, July 29, 2020). Please ensure you have reviewed the Daily Health Check document and have provided the school confirmation of understanding regarding your role to complete the [Daily Health Check](#) each day before your child attends school.

Illness in another Family Member:

Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household has cold, influenza, or COVID-19-like symptoms, provided the student/staff is asymptomatic. As per public health guidance, it is expected the symptomatic household member is seeking assessment by a health care provider.

Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19-like symptoms that are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health care provider.

Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures

Parents/Guardians must remain outside of the school when dropping off /picking up students. Parents/ Guardians must not enter the school. Administration will develop drop off/pick up times and if the schedule needs to be modified based on student attendance this will be communicated to Parents/Guardians. Parents/guardians must physically distance (2m) while on school grounds. Students are required to physically distance (2m) from those outside of their cohort. In addition to the [Daily Health Check](#) for Illness, Parents/Guardians of Learners with Diverse Needs, as required, will communicate with staff via email prior to arrival to communicate any additional information that may be needed regarding supporting their child. Please consult with case manager and administration if support is needed.

Access Control

Parent/guardians and visitors must not enter the school/site. Only School District No. 62 staff may enter. Access to SD 62 sites by non-school district personnel is not permitted unless deemed necessary by administration or site-manger. Communication should occur via the phone, virtual meeting, or email. If access is required, it must be by pre-approval from administration or site-manager and by appointment only. If a visit is granted the visitor must follow all safety protocol (Stage 2 Handbook), complete the [Daily Health Check](#) and ensure visit is logged by office.

Food and School Supplies

Food and other supplies brought to school each day by students must be brought home at the end of each day. Please ensure that all food your child may bring to school is packed in clean containers. Students will be informed that sharing of food will not be permitted. Some school supplies may remain onsite, if requested by administrator or teacher, as long as, supplies are not shared and they do not inhibit the custodian's ability to clean and disinfect.

Handwashing

Handwashing is required for students:

- When they arrive at school and leave school.
- Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).
- Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk or locker).

- Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple cohorts (e.g. the gym, music room, science lab, etc.).
- After using the toilet.
- After using the gym.
- After sneezing or coughing into hands.
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty.
- Before touching face (nose, eyes or mouth)
- Before and after use of play structure/playground
- After handling common resources
- For bus students, before they leave home to take the bus, when they leave school prior to taking the bus, and when they get home.

To help maintain a healthy learning environment, we are continuing to ask students and families to practice good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (Coughing and sneezing into your sleeve). Please review with your child on a regular basis.