



School Start Up – Frequently Asked Questions

Health and Safety

Health

Are children/teachers expected to stay home for 14 days if they have COVID symptoms?

- *Students and staff with cold, influenza, or COVID-19 like symptoms should stay home, self-isolate, and be assessed by a health-care provider. Testing is recommended for anyone with these symptoms, even mild ones. Self-isolation is also advised for those who are considered a close contact of a confirmed case. Public health staff identify and notify close contacts of a confirmed case. Public health also ensures those required to self-isolate have access to health-care providers and that other appropriate supports are in place.*
- *Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19-like symptoms, which 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, call 8-1-1 or use the [COVID 19 Self Assessment Tool](#).*

What if my child's teacher or another student in the class/cohort becomes infected with COVID 19 and were potentially contagious while at school?

- *Public health will perform an investigation to determine if there were any potential close contacts within the school. (To learn more about contact tracing, visit the BCCDC website.) Students and staff who have interacted with the confirmed case may be asked to stay home while public health completes their investigation.*
- *Public health may recommend 14-day isolation if necessary for confirmed close contacts.*

Will I be notified if there is a case of COVID 19 in my child's school?

- *All communication regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases will come from Fraser Health. If a student or staff is confirmed to have COVID-19, public health will do an investigation to confirm if any staff or students have been in close contact with that person and need to self-isolate. Public health will inform the school and superintendent if there are close contacts of a confirmed case within a learning group or school. See protocols below from CDC and Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12*

Our child has allergies and frequently has a runny nose. Do we have to keep them home every time they get the sniffles?

- *Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19-like symptoms, which 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, call 8-1-1 or use the [COVID 19 Self Assessment Tool](#).*

What if my child gets sick at school?

- *Any child or staff member who gets sick at school will wait in the Isolation Room until they can safely leave the site. Parents will be contacted immediately and asked to pick up their child.*

If my child has been home sick, cold, flu etc. Do they need to be tested for COVID 19 before returning to school?



- Families will not be required to provide test results before returning to school. Students should be able to pass the [Student Daily Health Check](#) before returning to school.

Cleaning

Will running water be available in portables?

- Running water is not available in some portables. Hand sanitizing stations have been installed in all portables without running water.

Will there be additional custodial staff at schools?

- Additional custodial staff have been hired to ensure that we can meet or exceed the required Health and Safety protocols.

Masks

With growing evidence of aerosol transmission why aren't masks mandatory in schools?

- All schools are to adhere to the standards, guidelines and protocols from the BC Centre for Disease Control, WorkSafeBC and Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings. The K-12 Guidelines states “**Non-medical masks are not recommended for elementary school students due to the increased likelihood they will touch their face and eyes, as well as require assistance to properly put on and take off their mask (requiring increased close personal contact from school staff).**” The [B.C. Back to School Website](#) also states elementary school students are not required to wear masks.
- At the middle and secondary levels masks are required when students are outside of their learning cohort and cannot socially distance. For example, in hallways and on busses.

I don't want my child to have to wear a mask. This should be a choice.

- We are asking that all middle and secondary students wear a mask when outside of their learning cohort and cannot socially distance. For example, in hallways and on busses.
- Elementary students are not required to wear a mask.

My children are in elementary school. Will they be required to wear a mask at any time? If so, for how long?

- Elementary school children will not be required to wear a mask at school.

Can my child wear their own mask or will they be required to wear one provided by the school (mid/sec)?

- Your child can wear their own mask or the mask provided.

What is required for a medical exemption to wearing a mask?

- A medical note is required.

Physical Distancing

How will students maintain physical distance in the classroom?

- Physical Distancing will not be required within the learning cohort rather students will be instructed that there will be no physical contact.



- *At middle/secondary students will not be required to physical distance within their cohort, but will be required to physically distance and wear a mask in common areas.*

Student Learning

Cohorts/Bubble

The Cohort sizes seem too large particularly for families who have more than one child in different cohorts or different schools.

- *The cohort size of 60 (elementary/middle) and 120 (secondary) is the required maximum allowed by the Ministry of Education under direction from the Public Health Officer.*

Will there be communal supplies/books?

- *School supplies (notebooks, pencils etc.) will be individual.*
- *Classroom resources such as books will not be shared outside the classroom.*
- *School supply lists are available at STAPLES.*

Elective Classes – Middle and Secondary

Will elective/exploratory classes be available to my student? If so, how will their cohort be maintained?

- *Elective courses are available and in most cases students will remain with their cohort group. Where cohorts will be mixed, physical distancing will be required and if not possible, masks will be required.*

Will the shop/studio etc. be cleaned between cohort usage?

- *Spaces with multiple cohort use will receive two high touch surface cleanings in a 24-hour period. These spaces will be supplied with spray bottles of sanitizer and wipes so surfaces can be sanitized by the user after use.*

Absences

What if my child has to self-isolate for a period of time, or is simply sick for a couple of days? How will their learning be supported, particularly at the secondary level where they will be missing a significant amount of curriculum each day?

- *Learning will continue to be supported for students who miss school due to illness or self-isolation. Students/families will communicate with the teacher to learn what work can be done at home while they are away.*

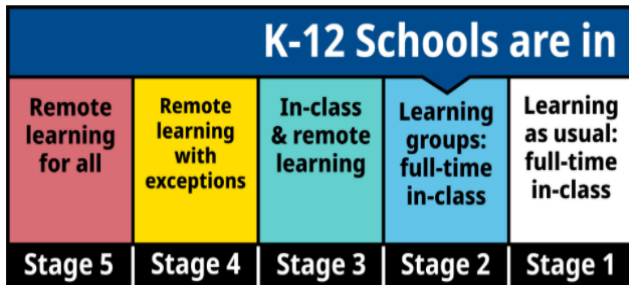
If an entire Learning Cohort has to self-isolate will there be a switch to online learning for this group?

- *Continuation of learning will be provided for all students. Delivery will vary in order to meet all students needs.*



Stages

What is the plan for moving in and out of in-class learning in response to COVID cases?



Remote Learning Options

The Federal Government announced on August 25, 2020 additional funding to assist districts with a safe return to school including staffing and remote learning options. How will this funding impact us?

- Read the BC Government News Release [here...](#)

What remote options are available for families who do not want to send their child(ren) to school full time?

- Hybrid Program for K – 8 [Learn more...](#)

What remote options are available for families who do not want to send their child(ren) to school?

- Learn from Home Transition Support for K - 12 [Learn more...](#)

Are there remote options to support on-reserve First Nations students?

- First Nations On-Reserve Support K – 12 [Learn more...](#)

Is there a remote option for French Immersion students?

- Due to the nature of French Immersion learning and the limited ability of some parents to support second language learning at home, there is no remote option for French Immersion students.

My Current/Catchment School

If I register my child in Distance Learning in another school district will I maintain my spot at my current school?

- They will be accepted back if there is space available.

If I register my child for Learn from Home Transition Support will I maintain my spot at my current school?

- Yes.

If I register my child for Hybrid Learning will I maintain my spot at my current school?

- Students will be accepted back into their catchment school at the start of the next school year. Students wishing to return part way through this year will be accepted back if there is space.



Students with Disabilities, Diverse Abilities

My child has exceptionalities and is supported by an EA. They have difficulty being in the classroom all day. How will they be supported and how will their bubble/cohort be maintained?

- *The student will be supported by an EA within the classroom as well as for any out of classroom support. Learning cohorts will be maintained as much as possible by managing EA schedules. If an EA works with more than one cohort they will use a mask.*

School Busses

Some students, particularly at Secondary will have to wait up to an hour for their afternoon bus. What kind of supervision will there be to ensure that students are not mixing cohorts?

- *Students will be supervised by teachers / education assistants.*
- *Students waiting for the bus will have access to:*
 - *Their classroom “bubble”*
 - *Outside space*
 - *School services such as:*
 - *Library*
 - *Counselling*
 - *Learning Assistance*
 - *Office*
 - *Limited opportunities for after school clubs/sports*

How often will school busses be sanitized?

- *Busses will be sanitized twice per day... after the morning run and after the afternoon run in preparation for the morning run.*