



August 27, 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians / Caregivers,

Welcome back! I sincerely hope that you had a wonderful summer and that you had the opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. Over the summer months, the Ministry of Education and public health experts have been monitoring the pandemic situation and have been planning for the safe return of students and staff to schools in September. I want to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on some key items relating to health and safety protocols in those plans, and it is hoped that this information will reduce anxiety for families as we look forward to returning to school.

### **Full-Time In-Person Instruction:**

On August 24, the B.C. Government confirmed in their [media release](#) that students would be returning to full-time, in-person instruction this September, including resuming sports, music, and other extracurricular activities. Parents/Guardians, if you have questions concerning your child's instructional program, please contact your school principal.

### **Preventative Health & Safety Protocols:**

Listed below are the preventative health and safety measures that will continue from last year. Please note that the school district will continue to ensure that all infection prevention and exposure control measures co-developed between public health officials, a stakeholder led steering committee, and the Ministry of Education are met or exceeded when students and staff return to school in September.

- Staff and students are to continue to do their own Daily Health Check and should remain home if they are not feeling well.
- Mask wearing indoors for all K-12 staff, visitors and students in grades 4 to 12, including at their desks and on school buses.
- Mask wearing indoors strongly encouraged for students in Kindergarten to grade 3, but this remains the choice of the student and their family.
- Continued posting of directional signage to manage traffic flow and prevent crowding.
- General cleaning of the premises, and the cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, will occur at least once in a 24-hour period.
- Continued focus on rigorous hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Maintain building air ventilation as per standards and specifications for ongoing comfort.

### **What is different for the 2021-2022 school year:**

- Students will no longer be organized in learning groups/cohorts.
- Students/staff will not be required to social distance by 2 metres. Schools will work to implement measures such as respecting others personal space and engage in outside activities and learning as much as possible.
- A new Communicable Disease Plan will replace our District's Safety Plan. It will have many similarities to our current Safety Plan but will reflect any ongoing measures and additional measures to be implemented as advised by public health.
- Regional Medical Health Officers will now have the authority to implement additional safety requirements at a regional, district or school level during times of increased community transmission of COVID-19.

- School gatherings and events will now align with provincial/regional public health recommendations and Orders.
- School sports; extra-curricular activities & assemblies; theater and dance performances; and staff gatherings and meetings can now occur.

We ask that you continue to follow [BC Health and Safety Guidelines](#) in school settings, and adhere to the [BC Restart Plan](#) outside of school settings.

Additional information can be found in the Ministry of Education comprehensive document: [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

As the new school year approaches, Fraser Health wants to ensure that students are protected against COVID-19. As a result, Fraser Health plans to run immunization clinics during lunch and after school at the high schools to provide students opportunities to be immunized against COVID-19 if they so choose ([mature minors](#)). Please note that as per protocols, notices will be sent home to parents from Fraser Health, so parents are informed regarding the vaccination clinics.

Finally, as we approach the start of the new school year, our renewed [Strategic Plan](#) will guide our work as we continue to focus on high levels of learning for all students while creating world-class educational experiences. Thank you again to our district partners, including our parents/guardians/caregivers, for helping to co-create our laser-focused Strategic Plan. During the school year, we will find opportunities to share our progress with our educational partners.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keep our community safe during this pandemic, and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on September 7. Enjoy the rest of your summer holidays.

Sincerely,



Rohan Arul-pragasam  
School Superintendent