



May 27, 2020

Dear parents/guardians,

We are looking forward to welcoming more students back to school next week as we move to part-time in-class instruction under the Ministry of Education's five-stage restart plan for K-12 education. It has been a long 10 weeks and our staff are eager to once again connect in person with more students.

Earlier this month we surveyed elementary parents and guardians asking them to indicate if they would be sending their child(ren) back to school in June. We received responses from 82 percent of our elementary families and of the surveys we received, 57 percent indicated that they are planning to attend as of June 1. This is a personal decision for students and families, and we respect whichever decision feels right for your family. No matter which option you choose your child will continue to receive support through this next phase, however as teachers balance both in-class and remote learning remote learning opportunities will look different.

Parents and guardians will be welcome to send their children back to school throughout the month of June should they change their mind from their initial response. You are asked to connect with your school principal before your child returns to school so that any necessary arrangements can be made to continue to follow all the necessary protocols.

We appreciate that there are many questions regarding health and safety. We have been carefully reviewing all the health and safety protocols and direction from the ministry and provincial public health and have developed a specific plan and protocols to ensure that School District 72 meets the provincial measures. These protocols are now publicly available on the district website at: <https://bit.ly/3c6zdeA>.

Under the stage 3 restart plan, schools are moving to an increase of 40 percent in-class opportunities for K-5 students and 20 percent for 6-12 students. At elementary school, some students will attend on Monday and Tuesday and others on Thursday and Friday. At middle school, grade 6 and grade 7 students will each attend one day a week and the grade 8s will be split into two groups with half coming on one day and the other half on another day. For secondary students each grade will be assigned a different day of the week for attendance to ensure that the school population is kept to no more than 20 percent occupancy at any given time.

Wednesdays will be set aside, at all levels, for remote learning opportunities and to allow for a deep cleaning of the school building. Schools will provide specific instructions to their own school community with regards to what days and times students attend, along with any other site-specific information.

Children of essential service workers in kindergarten to grade 5 who have been accessing urgent childcare will continue to have the option to attend school full-time and identified vulnerable students will continue to be provided with in-school supports five-days a week. If you are a parent of child with special needs and you would like an expanded offering, please contact your child's principal.

Schools are going to look different than before spring break. To give you and our younger students an idea of what you can expect when/if you return to school, we have created a short video with thanks to the staff at Sandowne Elementary. To help students be prepared for these changes we ask that you watch the video and speak with your children before they return. You can watch the video on the district's YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/ZLgPPDMYSMY>.

One of the protocols we have established is a daily student health check. As parents and guardians, it is your responsibility to ensure your child remains home if they are displaying COVID-19 symptoms or even if they are feeling unwell. We need your help and diligence in this matter.

Each day, if your child is returning to school, you will be asked to complete a health check form and return it to the school. Attached with this letter is a copy of the form; your school office will provide you with a supply of forms for the month of June.

Building access will also be limited. Parents and all other visitors are asked to call the school office ahead of time to schedule meetings with the school principal or speak with other school staff.

Unfortunately, physical distancing requirements have meant that we will not be able to offer our full bus routes and schedule for the month of June. The district's bus fleet is simply not large enough to meet the reduced ridership requirements and running trips would mean significant delays for students arriving to and from school.

We will continue to provide bus services for special needs students, First Nations communities, elementary aged students who live in Oyster River and attend Ocean Grove Elementary, and our remote/outlying communities of Quadra, Cortes and Sayward. All other routes have had to be cancelled and students who usually ride those other routes will need to make alternate transportation arrangements. We acknowledge that this is an additional complexity for our families.

Bus ridership will also require a daily health check. We ask that elementary parents have a responsible adult wait at the bus stop with their child in the morning as children who are unwell will be required to return home.

These new protocols in our schools are based on specific sector guidelines from Dr. Bonnie Henry and her team at the BC Centre for Disease Control. The safety of students and staff is always our top priority and we do not take the duty of care entrusted to us when you send your child to our schools lightly. Health and safety have been, and will continue to be, the framework through which we make all decisions.

The return to school is voluntary and our staff are excited to see face-to-face those students who will be returning. All students will continue to receive remote learning opportunities and staff look forward to working with all students in June.

Thank you for your support in keeping our schools safe and for your continued patience and understanding.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jeremy Morrow
Superintendent of Schools



APPENDIX B: Student Daily Health Check

Student Name: _____ Date: _____/_____/2020
(MM / DD/ YEAR)

School: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Parent/Caregiver Completing Assessment: _____

Complete this Self-Health check each day.

Our schools are clean and sanitized daily. They are low risk for virus transmissions. **Please do not enter a School District 72 facility if you:**

- Answer yes to any of the health check questions
- Have a temperature above 38 °C
- Have unusual or persistent respiratory symptoms

Time: _____ AM PM

1. Does your child have a fever? Yes No
2. Does your child have a cough? Yes No
3. Does your child have congestion? Yes No
4. Does your child have nasal drip? Yes No
5. Is your child sneezing? Yes No
6. Is anyone in your household ill? Yes No