

unwell will be required to return home. Students will need to wear a mask on the bus unless they are unable to for medical reasons

Please refer to our website to register for bussing: www.sd72.bc.ca/departments/Transportation/

What will class schedules look like? Will students attend school all day?

Yes. Students in grades 1 to 12 will attend school for full days as of September 14. Kindergarten students will attend for full days at the end of their gradual entry schedule. School start and end times may be slightly staggered, but your child's school will provide more information on specific start and end times. Schedules will be coordinated to ensure that students can be on time for class and connect with bussing if they use the bus.

Secondary students will take one course at a time for five weeks. After that, the student will move to a new course. The morning will be composed of 3 ½ hours of instruction with a 30-minute break for lunch, followed by a 1 ½ hour tutorial/support session in the afternoon. This allows secondary students to still be able to take all their chosen classes and have a concentrated focus on one subject at a time while promoting physical distancing with students who are not in their class.

At secondary school, under the 1/8 model will my child have PE or other option classes for the full day?

Our secondary school principals and teachers are working on plans to find safe ways to deliver classes such as music, band, PE and trades. Your child's school will be providing you with those details.

Will the secondary schools be providing Flex classes this year?

No. We will unfortunately not be able to offer flex programming at our secondary schools this year.

Will there be lockers and in-class storage?

Lockers will not be in use, but your child's school will provide more information on student supplies and storage of their items during school orientation in September.

Are class sizes changing?

Class sizes are mandated by the *School Act* and a provincial Memorandum of Agreement and are not changed because of COVID-19. Depending on how many parents choose to enroll their child in eBlend, eBos or homeschool for the year, there may be less children in a classroom.

What is a learning group or cohort?

Learning groups or cohorts are a small grouping of students and staff to reduce the number of in-person interactions, the risk of transmission, and to ensure quick contact tracing by public health should there be a case of COVID-19. Students will interact mostly within their classroom, with learning groups coming together for such activities as recess/lunch, library, PE, or other shared instruction where there is an educational benefit to a larger group.

Elementary and middle schools have been organized into learning groups to a maximum of 60 people, including the teacher and educational assistant(s).

Secondary schools can have learning groups to a maximum of 120 people, including staff. However, our secondary schools are moving to a 1/8 course model with students taking one course at a time for five weeks. This means that secondary students will have a learning group of no more than 30 students.

How often will you be cleaning my child's classroom and school?

Since the beginning of the pandemic the cleaning schedules at all school district sites has been increased. All schools have general cleaning and disinfecting at least once a day and each school will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of the day using enhanced cleaning protocols. High touch surfaces are disinfected at



least twice a day. Each classroom is also supplied with hand cleaner and surface wipes for in between needs.

Will students have to wear masks?

Per the Provincial Health Officer's directive, elementary students are not required to wear a mask at school because of the increased likelihood that they will touch their face and eyes and may require assistance to properly put on and take off their mask (which means close personal contact from school staff. Middle and secondary students are required to wear a mask at school when they are in high traffic areas, such as hallways and other common areas, and anytime they are outside their learning group and physical distancing cannot be maintained. All students, including elementary students, will be required to wear masks when on school buses unless they cannot tolerate wearing a mask for medical reasons.

If parents choose for their child to wear a mask in other instances that will be respected.

All students will be provided with a reusable mask when they attend their orientation on September 10 or 11 and single use masks will be available from the school office and the school bus driver should a student forget or lose their mask.

Will teachers and other staff have to wear masks?

Each staff member in the school district will be provided with a kit that includes a face shield, reusable mask, and hand sanitizer. Regular classroom teachers will not be required to wear a mask in the classroom as they will be part of the students' learning group but may choose to do so. Where physical distancing is not possible, and outside of one's cohort, masks are required for staff at the middle and secondary levels.

Teachers-teaching-on-call (substitute teachers) and staff who work with more than one learning group (e.g. music teachers) will be required to wear a mask if they are unable to maintain physical distancing.

How will you be able to have teachers-teaching-on-call (substitute teachers) and other itinerant staff safely move between different schools?

Teachers-teaching-on-call (substitute teachers) and other itinerant staff will be required to wear a mask if they are unable to maintain physical distancing. When student registration is complete, we will be able to consider whether substitute teachers can be assigned to a specific school or a small group of schools in order to minimize the number of possible interactions.

Will schools be providing childcare like they did in the spring?

No. Schools will not be providing before and after school care unless their school previously had a licensed daycare provider offering childcare onsite. Parents will need to access childcare within the community to ensure their childcare needs are met.

Will there be site inspections of the schools?

Site inspections by local health authorities are not planned.

Will you be taking children's temperatures before they enter the school?

No. The Provincial Health Officer has been clear that the taking of temperatures is best left to health professionals and will not be done at schools.

What accommodations are being made for immunocompromised individuals?

Schools will provide a home support plan for students who are immunocompromised and determined by their doctor that they cannot attend school. Parents need to contact their school principal to discuss their needs. Where possible, the district will work to try to accommodate immunocompromised staff and/or staff who have an immunocompromised dependent.



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

Our schools are under the direction of public health, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and the Ministry of Education. Only public health can determine who is a close contact and at risk for infection from a confirmed COVID-19 case. If a staff member or student in a school is confirmed by public health as positive for COVID-19, public health will work with school administration to determine what actions should be taken, including if any staff or students who have been in contact with that person need to self-isolate, and if other staff and students' families should be notified. Schools cannot provide notification to staff or students' families unless directed by public health.

What will happen if my child develops symptoms at school?

If a student falls ill for any reason, they will be taken to a room that is set aside at each school and a parent will be called for immediate pick up of the student. A staff member, wearing PPE, will stay with your child and care for them until you arrive. Your child will not be tested or given other medical treatment; it is the parent's responsibility to seek medical advice. The student will be required to stay home until they are cleared to return to class by health authorities and symptoms have resolved.

If another student in my child's class or staff member develops symptoms at school, what will you do to try to protect others?

If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school the symptomatic individual will be separated from others and taken to another room until their parents or an emergency contact picks them up. Touch points will be disinfected immediately, and any areas accessed by the symptomatic individual will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. An electrostatic Clorox sprayer will be used for hard to clean areas. The symptomatic individual will also be required to stay home until they are cleared to return by health authorities and symptoms have resolved.

What is the threshold for shutting down a school or quarantining a classroom?

The legal authority to close a school for public health reasons falls under the direction of the provincial health officer and the local medical health officer. A school would only be closed, or a classroom quarantined, under the direction of public health based on their investigation and/or contact tracing.

Will there be regular COVID testing of students and/or staff?

Only health professionals can direct or advise testing of students and staff. There is no direction for school districts to regularly test students and/or staff.

Will students still be able to access support from Learning Support Services? (i.e. speech therapy, physiotherapy, etc.)

We will continue to provide services such as occupational therapy and speech therapy in the schools. All parents and guardians of students with an individual education plan (IEP) or who were previously identified in March as needing extra support will be contacted in early September to ensure a plan can be developed to support these students. Please talk to your child's school principal about any concerns.

How will this difficult time and its impact on mental health be addressed?

The mental health of our students, staff and families is of concern to all of us. Students have had a huge disruption to their school plans. Some families are struggling to cope with the added worries the pandemic has brought.

Resources are available to help students, teachers, staff, and families cope and thrive. Trauma informed practice and principles are taught and used throughout our system. Administrators have received training in these principles. Teachers and staff will also be trained during professional development activities before school start up.

If you or a family member are concerned about your child's mental health or your own, we encourage you to reach out to your school office or supervisor to access resources.



What if I am not sure I want to send my child back to class?

Families have a choice of three options this school year: in-class instruction, distributed learning or homeschool. We support you in making the right decision for your family! Please speak with your child's principal to determine the best learning option for your family.

What is the difference between homeschooling and eBlend (K-9) or eBos (10-12) distributed learning?

With distributed learning a family member supervises the child's learning at home with teacher support. Through homeschool a family member delivers the entire educational program to the child at home. Homeschooling is not supervised by a teacher or provided with learning materials, however there are several homeschool support groups or programs available online. Students who register for eBlend or eBos are guaranteed a space in their current school next year. Students who register for homeschool leave School District 72 and are not guaranteed a spot in their current school next year. For more information on homeschooling in BC visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/classroom-alternatives/homeschooling>.

How do I register for eBlend (K-9) or eBos (10-12) distributed learning?

Parents who are interested in eBlend or eBos should inform their child's school principal and then complete a [registration form](#) and email it to robron.centre@sd72.bc.ca. There is no enrolment limit or enrolment deadline for these programs. It is important for parents to know that we may not be able to accommodate mid-year changes unless space is available. Parents should consider any decision as a year-long commitment.

How do I register for homeschool?

If you choose to homeschool your child, you will need to register your child as a homeschooler by September 30 by contacting any one of our School District 72 school offices.

What kind of training is being provided to students and teachers to shift to online learning?

Learning and teaching online is different than being face-to-face in class. Teachers will have the opportunity to learn more about online lesson development during professional development sessions in September. Students and families who choose to use distributed (eBlend or eBos) rather than in-class learning this year, will be supported by their distributed learning teachers. We plan to continue to add tools and tutorials throughout the year.

