

SCHOOL DISTRICT 6

School Restart Information for Parents

On May 15, 2020, the Ministry of Education published the K-12 Education Restart Plan and the accompanying Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Education. This document is provided to parents/guardians to outline our plans in SD6, following the continuity of learning principles that have guided us during the pandemic:

- Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees
- Provide the services needed to support the children of our essential workers (ESWs)
- Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance
- Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students

Moving from Stage 4 to Stage 3 on June 1

STAGE 1 SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS 100%	STAGE 2 SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS K-7: 100% Grade 8-12: 40%	STAGE 3 SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS K-5: 50% Gr. 6-12: 20%	STAGE 4 SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS K-12: 20%	STAGE 5 SCHOOL DENSITY TARGETS K-12: 0%
In-class instruction: K-12: 5 day per week	In-class instruction: K-7: 5 days per week Grade 8-12: 2 days per week ----- 5 days per week available for: ✓ Children of essential service workers ✓ Students with disabilities/diverse abilities ✓ Students who require additional supports Remote/online instruction: Balance of learning	In-class instruction: K-5: 2 to 3 days per week Gr. 6-7: 1 day per week Gr 8-12: 1 day per week ----- 5 days per week available for: ✓ Children of essential service workers ✓ Students with disabilities/diverse abilities ✓ Students who require additional supports Remote/online instruction: Parent/Guardian choice to return to in-class instruction optional Balance of learning	In-class instruction: K-12: Limited ----- 5 days per week available for: ✓ Children of essential service workers ✓ Students with disabilities/diverse abilities ✓ Students who require additional supports Remote/online instruction: K-12: Majority of all students	In-class instruction: K-12: None ----- Suspend all in-class instruction for all grades and students ----- Remote/online instruction: K-12: All Students

Why are we doing this now?

- It is safe to do so. The number of cases and impact on health is decreasing.
- Research shows low risk of transmission in young populations and school settings.
- Risk of not being in school is heightened for younger children and vulnerable students.
- Schools are a critical part of BC's restart plan. Re-engaging now sets the stage for a full school restart in September 2020.

Public Health Recommendations:

- Adolescent children **should physically distance themselves** where possible when outside the family unit or household.
- For younger children, maintaining physical distance is less practical and the focus should be on **minimizing physical contact** instead.

SD6 plan overview:

- Attendance is optional – parents have indicated by responding to the survey whether their children will attend.
- Schools will contact each family to advise them of the schedule for their children.
- Students in K-5 will attend 2 days per week; students in 6-12 will attend 1 day per week.
- K-5 will be scheduled at no more than 50% of the students at a time; 6-12 will be scheduled at no more than 20%.
- Schools will operate in-class instruction Monday-Thursday; Friday will be for remote learning.
- Expectations must be adjusted; teachers will be teaching students face to face during the day Monday through Thursday, therefore remote learning will not be as “robust” as it was previous to June.
- The school day will be the same length as before the suspension of in-class instruction (the usual start and dismissal times).
- Some children of ESWs and others with unique circumstances may attend Monday to Friday as necessary.
- Busing requests will be prioritized based on distance from school and available space. Capacity is reduced as safety guidelines allow only one per student per seat.

Health and Safety Measures at School



- Parents are asked to monitor their children daily for symptoms and not to send them to school if they are sick. People who are sick will not be allowed at school. If a child has a fever, a new cough or has difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.
- Children will be asked to wash their hands frequently, including upon entering the school. Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is expected, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and in classrooms that don't have a sink. We are well-stocked.
- Coughing/sneezing etiquette is to be followed; students are to use their elbow or a tissue, and then throw out the tissue if used and wash their hands afterwards.
- Students are to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth and avoid close contact with anyone who is sick.
- Social distancing is expected for students in grades 6-12. Primary students are expected to refrain from physical contact with each other, including on playgrounds. Learning activities will be planned with these guidelines in mind.
- Student belongings should be labelled, and each student's schools supplies and lunch should be transported back and forth from school in a backpack. Students should bring a labelled water bottle. Students will not have access to lockers.
- Students will keep “outside shoes” on and will keep their backpack with them at their desk or table. Students will hang coats on their chair, they will not use coat rooms or lockers. Students are not to share food or personal items with others.
- Schools will be cleaned more frequently; washrooms 2x per day, high touch points 2x per day (door knobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks, chairs, electronic devices, keyboards and toys), any surface that is visibly dirty, and general cleaning and disinfecting once a day.
- Recess, lunch times and transitions will be staggered to minimize the number of children in common areas. Playground structures are open for use as of June 2. Students are asked to refrain from physical contact with each other and to wash their hands upon re-entering the school. SD6 will not be sanitizing playground structures.
- Students will be physically spaced during learning activities. Classes will operate outside on a more frequent basis.
- Strategies will be used to manage the flow of people in common areas, including hallways. We will use a “stay right” policy.
- Parents and caregivers are asked not to come into the school except by appointment, and to practice diligent hand washing and social distancing when present.

If you have questions about whether or not you or your child should be tested for COVID-19, use the self-assessment tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19>.

Note: The BCCDC has indicated that the wearing of masks is not advisable in K to 12 educational settings. However, the wearing of a mask at school is a personal choice which will be respected.

Bus Transportation

- Space is limited, so please make arrangements to transport your child(ren) if possible.
- Students may only be one to a seat, except for children from the same household.
- Transportation will be prioritized based on space available and families will be notified by the Transportation dept.
- Buses will be disinfected twice daily.

Arriving at School

- Ensure children have been screened for any symptoms of illness prior to arrival. Children who have symptoms must stay home.
- Use designated entrance(s).
- Use automatic door openers whenever possible (*pressing the switch with your elbow*).
- Immediately wash hands at the nearest sink or use the hand sanitizer at the door.
- When hand hygiene is complete go directly to your designated classroom.

Illness

- If your child is sick, have them stay home.
- If your child starts to develop symptoms while at school, let your Principal/Supervisor know via text, email or phone.
- If you are not sure about symptoms, use the self-assessment tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19>

- **Principals emailed to families a document that outlines restart information specific to the school. The school specific operational procedures for restart can be found on the district website under COVID-19 Communication and also on each school's website.**
- **If you did not respond to the survey advising the school as to whether your child(ren) will be attending in June and would now like your child(ren) to attend, and if you are requesting bus service, please contact the school directly.**

If you have any other questions, please contact your child's school.