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School District 6 Rocky Mountain is located on the traditional unceded shared territory of the Ktunaxa and Secwépemc peoples and the chosen home of the Métis.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In response to growing case counts related to the Omicron variant, the **Provincial Government announced a delayed return to classroom instruction for all K-12 students in British Columbia, until January 10, 2022.** The government also released additional safety measures for schools, which include:

- Strategies that prevent crowding during class transition times (staggered breaks, not combining classes, etc.)
- Hold school gatherings and events (e.g., assemblies, etc.) virtually; if they must be in-person, limit the number of people to no more than 50% operating capacity
- Hold staff-only gatherings (e.g., meetings, professional development activities) virtually where possible
- Limit visitors to those who are supporting activities that directly benefit student learning and wellbeing (e.g., teacher candidates, immunizers, meal program volunteers, etc.)
- Pause extracurricular sports tournaments

District staff will return to school on January 4 – 7 as scheduled, to prepare for the implementation of the enhanced safety measures. During this period, school bus transportation services will continue to operate, and our schools will be available to provide care and programming during regular hours for:

- K-12 students with additional support needs; and
- Students under 12 years of age who are children of parents employed in the essential service roles listed on pages 1 and 2 of [the document at this link](#).

If you have students that qualify for the early return on January 4 and plan to send them to their school next week, please complete the following [form](#) by January 2, 2022 to assist with planning.

During this planning time, staff will continue to work with public health officials to assess the impact of the Omicron variant on education and develop plans to remain adaptive and communicative. We encourage anyone eligible for vaccination to use the opportunity of the delayed start to do so, as it remains the best protection against severe outcomes from COVID-19.

Please visit the school or [district website](#) for updated information as it becomes available. Rocky Mountain School District 6 remains committed to providing a safe and caring environment for all staff and students.

Sincerely,

Karen Shipka

Karen Shipka | Superintendent of Schools

