



École Nesika Elementary School
School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

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École Nesika Elementary

September 2020 Return to School

COVID-19 Safety Measures, Routines & Procedures

The staff of École Nesika Elementary are excited for the 2020-2021 school year and are looking forward to welcoming students back in September. The September start up will align with Stage 2 of the Ministry of Education Five stage Framework and is in accordance with the health guidelines for K-12 schools from the Provincial Health Office. To ensure a successful school year for our students the school has also developed the necessary plans to be able to shift between stages if required and for any students who may need to self isolate or quarantine.

The goal in Stage 2 is to maximize in-class instruction to minimize learning gaps and provide the academic, social and emotional supports essential for learning. To maintain a healthy and safe environment for students, staff, and families the school is implementing new norms and procedures and important safety and infection prevention control measures. The following document outlines a comprehensive plan that is designed to create a safe place to learn and work so our school community can thrive. It is expected that everyone accessing our facility adhere to the new routines and guidelines to the best of their ability so that we can all enjoy a happy and healthy school year.

The following is a working document that will be adjusted accordingly as new or updated information becomes available from the Provincial Health Office or the Ministry of Education. Part 1 outlines the broad safety measures that will be implemented in schools across the province. Part 2 outlines site specific routines and procedures that will be implemented to meet the requirements of the Provincial Health Officer's return to school guidelines and Stage 2 learning framework.

Personal Measures

BC Health Officer Recommended Return to School Guidelines

École Nesika Elementary Site-Based Response New Norms, Routines and Procedures

Sick or Showing Symptoms of Illness

There will be strict enforcement for all employees and students to stay home when sick.

Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. If a child has any symptoms, they must NOT go to school.

Staff and other adults must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school. If staff or any adult has any symptoms, they must not enter the school.

Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household has cold, influenza, or COVID-19-like symptoms, provided the student/staff is asymptomatic. It is expected the symptomatic household member is seeking assessment by a health-care provider.

Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19-like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.

We thank you for your careful attention to the following:

- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. See the attached **Daily Health Check** for things to look for.
- Those unsure of if they or their child should self-isolate or be tested for COVID-19 should use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) or contact 8-1-1.
- Any student, staff, or other person within the school who has cold, influenza, or COVID-19-like symptoms should stay home, self-isolate and be assessed by a health-care provider.
 - Parents are asked to call the school in the morning if you are keeping your child home due to illness
 - Staff will follow normal school district procedures for calling in an absence
- If your child becomes sick at school the parent / caregiver will be called immediately for the child to be picked up as soon as

<p>Any student, staff or other person within the school who has travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days OR was identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate, including children of essential service workers.</p>	<p>possible. Your child will be placed in the medical room and/or separated from others where they can be monitored and wait comfortably until they are picked up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parents are asked to make sure their emergency contact numbers are up to date ○ Parents who work during school hours are asked to have back-up plan for their child in case of illness (i.e. a family friend or relative who can pick up or look after your child on short notice) ○ Administration will err on the side of caution and call parents immediately if there is any concern that your child may be sick. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the event of a COVID-19 related illness at Nesika: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Areas of exposure will undergo a deep clean to ensure safety standards are maintained. ○ Public Health Staff identify and notify close contacts of a confirmed case (contact tracing).
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Hand Hygiene

<p>Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness.</p> <p>Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene by washing hands frequently with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds.</p> <p>Parents are encouraged to help their children to practice diligent hand hygiene.</p>	<p>To ensure diligent handwashing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff will teach and reinforce handwashing practices with their students and assist younger students with hand hygiene as needed ● Regular and consistent handwashing will be a part of our daily routine (upon arrival, before and after breaks, before and after eating, before and after using playground equipment, after using the toilet, after handling common resources or supplies).
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- The school will maximize classrooms with sinks for additional hand washing. Hand sanitizer will be available where there is no running water.
- Everyone entering the school will be required to wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival

Personal Protective Equipment

Non-Medical Masks - Wearing a non-medical mask or face covering within schools is a personal choice for students and adults.

Non-medical masks may be useful when physical distance cannot be consistently maintained and the person is interacting with people outside their Learning Group for an extended period of time.

Those that choose to wear non-medical masks must still seek to maintain physical distance from people outside their Learning Group

There must be no crowding or gathering of people from different Learning Groups even if masks are worn.

Gloves – Diligent handwashing is the most effective and preferred strategy in a school.

In a large school setting, there may be instances when a non-medical mask could be helpful:

- The school will provide a re-usable non-medical mask for each person in the school and will hand them out upon request. Should students choose to wear a mask they will be expected to use them appropriately and for their intended purpose.
- If a child becomes ill at school, they *may* be asked to wear a mask as they are being isolated from other staff and students and as they wait for their parent (or alternate) to pick up.
- Staff assisting a child who becomes ill will be required to wear a mask
- Staff working outside their Learning Group will be required to wear a mask if physical distancing is not possible

Gloves will be available for staff and students for activities that would normally be used in their regular course work (i.e. medical attendant, picking up garbage off the playground).

Physical Distancing & Minimizing Physical Contact & Maximizing Personal Space

Physical distancing and not gathering in large crowds is an important infection prevention control measure.

- Adults on site will continue to adhere to physical distancing guidelines of 2 metres wherever possible.
- Physical distancing is challenging in an elementary school setting, particularly with younger students. For younger children, the focus will be on minimizing physical contact. Older students will seek to maintain a safe physical distance whenever possible.
- Students and staff will be spread out as much as is practical to do so and strategies that prevent crowding will be implemented (staggered recess and lunch).
- Wherever possible the school will look to strategies to support and maximize personal space (alternate recess, lunch, bathroom schedule for Learning Groups)
- Avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, handshakes)
- Avoid large gatherings such as whole school assemblies. Instead, student recognition will be done within Learning Groups and virtual formats will be used to communicate whole school messages.
- Teachers will utilize outdoor learning more frequently
- Minimize the number of different teacher(s) and educational assistant(s) that interact with groups of students throughout the day
- Entrance and exit doors designated for students
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways.

Administrative Measures

BC Health Officer Recommended Return to School Guidelines

École Nesika Elementary Site-Based Response New Norms, Routines and Procedures

Learning Groups

The Provincial Health Officer has recommended the use of learning groups of *approximately 60 students* in elementary school.

Learning Groups help to reduce the number of close, in-person interactions, thereby reducing potential exposure and ensuring quicker contact tracing by health authorities. The Learning Groups allow for most students to receive in-person learning and other social opportunities in a close-to-normal school environment.

Within the Learning Group *minimized* physical contact is required, but physical distancing does not always need to be maintained.

Outside of a Learning Group physical distancing will remain the expectation.

Students can socialize with peers in different cohorts if they are outdoors and can minimize physical contact or if they are indoors and can maintain physical distance.

Learning Groups - Students will be assigned to a Learning Group (cohort) of approximately 60 students. Your child's Learning Group will be composed of your child's class and one or two other classrooms (depending on pupil numbers) in the school. Teachers will communicate with students and parents which Learning Group their child is in. Teachers will communicate with parents in a timely fashion if their Learning Group should change.

- Learning Groups will primarily be built around considerations regarding the physical space (i.e. avoiding two different learning groups passing each other in the hallway during the transition to and from break times), social dynamics (i.e. peer groups and sharing space on our playground during break times, opportunity to expand peer interaction to enhance learning) and academic opportunities for shared learning.
- Your child will stay with their learning group during break times (recess and lunch, before and after school) and for other school activities that involve more than one classroom (i.e. recreation and learning opportunities).
- Students who require learning assistance will be provided in-class support by a staff member assigned to their Learning Group wherever possible. Anyone interacting outside their Learning Group will practice physical distancing.

Extracurricular activities involving students interacting outside of their Learning Groups will require appropriate physical distancing and may not be permitted if appropriate safety precautions cannot be implemented and maintained.

Students from different cohorts may be required to be together to receive beneficial social supports, programs, or services (i.e. learning support, the breakfast program). Within these supports it is expected that cohorts and physical distance are maintained as much as is practical to do so while still ensuring the support or service continues. Unless they are part of the same Learning Group, staff and other adults should maintain physical distance from each other at all times. This includes during break times and meetings.

- Assemblies and large gatherings cannot occur during this stage. Celebrations of learning will occur within Learning Groups.

Alternate Recess and Lunch - The school will have alternate recess, lunch and dismissal times to reduce population density during break times.

- Your child's Learning Group will be assigned to: **Recess 1** (10:08-10:30 am) or **Recess 2** (10:38 – 11:00 am). If your child is assigned to Recess 1, then for lunch break they will play outside then come in to eat ("reverse lunch"). If your child is assigned to Recess 2 your child will eat then play ("classic lunch"). Please see the attached day schedule that outlines break times per teacher and new bell times for breaks.

Teachers and Education Assistants will be assigned to a Learning Group and stay with this learning group throughout the day as much as practical.

- Prep and Supervision schedules will be built around the teachers in these Learning Groups where possible. The school will make every effort to minimize staff interacting outside of their learning group as much as possible.
- If a teacher or EA is interacting outside of their designated Learning Group they will physically distance or mask if not able to distance.
- Teachers will supervise their own Learning Group at recess.

Designated Play Areas – we have organized our playground into play area zones.

- Each Learning Group will have a designated space to play at recess and lunch with their Learning Group.
- Each Learning Groups' play area zone will alternate weekly.

Visitors to the School

Schools will minimize the number of adults in the school.

The staff of Nesika believe it is important to have a warm and welcoming school with open lines of communication. During this difficult time the staff will do their best to remain available and reachable for parents. Unfortunately, for safety reasons it is important that we limit visitor access to the school. We appreciate careful attention to the following protocols:

- Parents visiting the school **MUST** use the front entrance and report directly to the office where they will be assisted by a staff member.
- Parents and caregivers are asked to arrange for a spot outside the school to drop-off and pickup their children.
- Parents are asked to call ahead of time where possible to make an appointment to meet with a teacher or administration so that the appropriate time and space can be arranged.
- Visitors / Parents are not to bypass the office and go directly to their child's classroom.

Food

Schools will continue to provide food services where needed. Food prepared within the school for consumption by people other than those who prepared it will follow WorkSafe BC protocols in addition to normally implemented food safety measures (e.g. FOODSAFE trained staff).

We will continue to run food programs to the best of our ability while adhering to the safety protocols.

- **Breakfast Program** – Continues, with enhanced health and safety protocols

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit & Veggie Program – Fruit and veggies will be delivered to classrooms for students to access through their teacher. • Hot Lunch Program – TBA • Sharing & Bake Sales - Students will not share lunch items or homemade food items at this time (i.e. lunch treats, birthday treats or bake sale items).
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<h3>Student Transportation</h3>	
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<p>Buses will be available to transport students to and from school.</p> <p>Buses will be cleaned in accordance to recommendations set by the Centre for Disease Control</p> <p>Implement strategies where practical to reduce the number of close in-person interactions between students not in the same Learning Group or household</p>	<p>Buses will be available to transport students to and from school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will encourage private vehicle use where possible to decrease transportation density. • Students from the same household can share seats if space is limited. • Students riding the bus must register with the district. • No food or drink permitted. • A bussing memo will be released from the transportation department.
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<h3>Environmental Measures</h3>	
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<p>BC Health Officer Recommended Return to School Guidelines</p>	<p>École Nesika Elementary Site-Based Response New Norms, Routines and Procedures</p>
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Cleaning & Disinfecting

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces.

General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises at least once every 24 hours (including items that only a single student uses such as an individual desk)

Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces at least twice every 24 hours (door knobs, toilet handles, shared tables, etc).

There is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted via textbooks or other paper-based products.

The school will have enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols and implement procedures and routines that will help to reduce frequently touched areas and implement traffic flow patterns to maintain the effectiveness of Learning Groups.

- **Cleaning & Custodial Time**

- Staff will have access to cleaning products to clean the hard surfaces in their classroom as needed.
- Frequently touched areas will be cleaned at least twice per day.
- The whole school will be cleaned after students have gone home.
- If a child is ill at school extra measures will be implemented to deep clean the areas they were in.

Limit Sharing

Limit sharing and frequent touch areas where possible.

- Teachers will limit the sharing of school supply and instructional items as much as is practical.
- Students will have a pencil case with their own writing and cutting utensils, instructional materials where practical
- Technology will be shared between learning groups. The teacher will disinfect technology before sharing between students.

Traffic Flow

- **Assigned Doors** - Classrooms will utilize exterior doors where possible.
- **Hallway Traffic and Use** – High traffic areas will be marked as one way traffic, otherwise while in the hallway students and staff will walk on the far right side of the hallway and do their best to maintain space between any persons coming in the opposite direction. Hallways will be cleared of extra furniture and items as much as is practical
- **Bathrooms**
 - While in the bathroom students will be asked to allow for personal space
 - Standing spots for waiting will be marked where possible

Communication and Engagement

BC Health Officer Recommended Return
to School Guidelines

École Nesika Elementary Site-Based Response
New Norms, Routines and Procedures

Parent Communication

Newsletters – a school newsletter will be posted once a month. Parents will be asked at the beginning of the year which format they prefer – digital or a paper copy. All newsletters will be posted on our SD website.

School Facebook Page – our school will run an informational Facebook page for sharing information and celebrations.

Teacher Memos – teachers will provide parents with specific information regarding schedules and any new routines that their students will be following at the beginning of the school year. Teachers will also inform parents of the methods of which they can contact them.

PAC and CPF Meetings

PAC Meetings – Will continue to be scheduled.

CPF Meetings – Will continue to be scheduled.

Inclusive Support Meetings

Meetings will continue to be scheduled. Adults involved will physically distance at the meetings. Inclusive student support is part of École Nesika Elementary school culture, plans will continue to be developed that are learner focused and growth oriented.

2020-2021 Continuity of Education Plan

If Required to Revert to Stage 3:

In the Case That a Student is Required to Isolate or Quarantine:

Teachers will provide school work for the duration of the quarantine so that the child is not behind in their course work.

The school will implement a hybrid option comparable to what happened in the spring, and follow recommendations from government.	If the child is ill and cannot complete school work they will not be penalized.
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References and Supporting Documents:

[COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#)

[K-12 Education Re-Start Plan](#)

[COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool](#)