

100 Mile Elementary School

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September 2020 Return to SchoolCOVID-19 Safety Measures, Routines & Procedures

The staff of 100 Mile 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 health 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. The left side of the table outlines the current recommendations and information from the Provincial Health Office. The right side of the table outlines site specific routines and procedures that will be implemented to meet the requirements of the return to school guidelines.

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Personal Measures

BC Health Officer Recommended Return to School Guidelines

100 Mile 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 <u>assess their child daily</u> 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 COVID19-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

We thank you for your careful attention to the following:

- Parents and caregivers must <u>assess their child daily</u> for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. See the attached <u>Daily Health Check</u> 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 <u>BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool</u> 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

normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.

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.

If a child becomes sick at school:

- The child will be placed in the medical room and separated from others where they can be monitored and wait comfortably for their parent / caregiver.
- Parents will be contacted immediately for the student to be picked up as soon as possible.
- If the parent or caregiver cannot be reached within a timely fashion their emergency contact person will be called.
- The school will provide the student with a non-medical mask while they wait to be picked up. Exceptions will be made for students and staff who cannot wear masks for medical and/or disability-related reasons.
- o Staff caring for an ill child will wear a mask.
- Areas that may have been affected will undergo a deep clean before others use the space (i.e. a bathroom may be temporarily closed for cleaning, an alternate learning space may be provided for an entire classroom).
- o 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 of relative who can pick up or look after your child on short notice)
- Administration will be cautious and call parents if there is any concern that your child may be sick.

In the event of a COVID-19 related illness at 100 Mile Elementary:

- Areas of exposure will undergo a deep clean to ensure safety standards are maintained.
- Public Health Staff will identify and notify close contacts of a confirmed case and work with the school if other measures are necessary

Hand Hygiene

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness.

Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene by washing hands frequently with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Parents are encouraged to help their children to practice diligent hand hygiene.

Handwashing will be a part of our day and will be taught and modeled by staff.

- Everyone entering the school will be required to wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival
- 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).
- The school will maximize classrooms with sinks for additional hand washing. Hand sanitizer will be available where there is no running water.

Personal Protective Equipment

Non-Medical Masks

Non-medical masks or face coverings are required for all staff and all middle and secondary school students when they are in high traffic areas (e.g. hallways, common areas, school buses) and anytime they are outside of their classroom or learning group and physical distance cannot be maintained (e.g. specialist teachers or EAs working in close proximity to students across learning groups)

The school will have non-medical masks on hand:

- The school will provide up to two re-usable non-medical masks for each student in the school *if requested*. Non-medical masks are not recommended for elementary school students.
- Should students choose to wear a mask they will be expected to use them appropriately and for their intended purpose.
- Each staff member will be provided two re-usable non-medial masks

Exceptions will be made for individuals who cannot wear masks for medical reasons and plans to ensure physical distancing will be implemented.

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.

Non-medical masks are not recommended for elementary school students due to the increased likelihood they will touch their face and eyes, as well as require assistance to properly put on and take off their mask (requiring increased close personal contact from school staff). No student needs to wear a non-medical mask if they do not tolerate it.

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.

• 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).

LATEX ALLERGY ALERT! If you choose to send your child to school with gloves you MUST ensure they are latex free as we have a life-threatening allergy to latex in our school.

Physical Distancing & Minimizing Physical Contact & Maximizing Personal Space

Reducing the number of close, in-person interaction an individual has in a day continues to be a key component in BC's strategy to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In Stage 2, member of the same learning group must minimize physical contact. There is significant academic, social and emotional benefits of providing more students with more in-class learning time in a closer to normal learning environment - minimizing learning gaps, increasing peer interaction and support, decreasing feelings of isolation.

Physical distancing (2m) for elementary students when interacting with peers *outside* of their learning groups while indoors.

Outdoors is a lower risk environment than indoors.

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

- Students and staff interacting within a Learning Group will *minimize* physical contact. Within a classroom setting or when interacting with your Learning Group physical distancing does not need to be maintained, therefore, the classroom setting will look much the same as normal.
- 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, lunch and dismissal and assigned entry/exit doors).
- Adults on site will continue to adhere to physical distancing guidelines of 2 meters wherever possible.
- Teachers will model alternate ways to greet each other and how to avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, handshakes).
- Teachers will educate students on the importance of maintaining personal space during a pandemic.
- We will not be holding 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 plan for outdoor learning more frequently.
- The school will plan to minimize the number of different teacher(s) and educational assistant(s) that interact with groups of students throughout the day.
- Teachers and EAs interacting outside their Learning Group and itinerant teachers (i.e. school counselor, band teacher, school specialists) will maintain physical distancing.
- Classrooms will have designated entrance and exit doors. Your classroom teacher will contact you before the return to school to let you know the door your child should use.

Teachers will teach and model the flow of traffic in common areas (i.e. walk on the right side of the hallway). Floor markers helping students to understand where to stand when waiting in line will be utilized where necessary (i.e. in the bathroom and at sink areas). Administrative Measures BC Health Officer Recommended Return 100 Mile Elementary Site-Based Response to School Guidelines New Norms, Routines and Procedures **Learning Groups** The Provincial Heath Officer has recommended the use of learning Learning Groups - Students will be assigned to a Learning Group of 60 people (inclusive of teachers and EAs). Your child's Learning Group groups of 60 people in elementary school. will be composed of your child's class and one or two other classrooms in the school. Teachers will communicate with students and parents Learning Groups help to reduce the number of close, in-person which Learning Group their child is in. Teachers will communicate with interactions, thereby reducing potential exposure and ensuring quicker parents in a timely fashion if their Learning Group should change. contact tracing by health authorities. The Learning Groups allow for o Learning Groups will primarily be built around considerations most students to receive in-person learning and other social regarding the physical space (i.e. avoiding two different learning opportunities in a close-to-normal school environment. groups passing each other in the hallway during the transition to and

where possible.

Within the Learning Group *minimized* physical contact is required,

but physical distancing does not always need to be maintained.

from break times) and social dynamics (i.e. peer groups and sharing space on our playground during break times, opportunity to expand

peer interaction to enhance learning). The school will include

siblings and close family members in the same Learning Group

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

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

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 Learning Groups may be required to be together to receive beneficial social supports, programs, or services. Within these supports it is expected that Learning Groups 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.

- Your child will stay with their learning group during break times (recess and lunch) and for other school activities that may involve more than one classroom (i.e. buddy classes, outdoor learning, band, etc).
- 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.
- Plexiglass barriers may also be implemented in a setting where a student is receiving support from our learning resource team if that teacher is not part of the students' Learning Group.
- o Plexiglass barriers will be used in the library and the front office

Alternate Recess and Lunch - The school will have alternate recess, lunch and dismissal times to reduce population density during break times. Teachers will supervise their own Learning Group at recess and after school.

- O Your child's Learning Group will be assigned to: **Recess 1** (10:30 10:45 am) or **Recess 2** (10:50 11:05 am).
- Learning Groups will be assigned to one of four zones on the playground. The zone will be large and easily accommodate potentially 60 people playing in that area (a map outlining the zones is being created).
- Teachers will talk to the students about the importance of playing in their zone at recess and lunch and help students to understand the boundaries of each zone. Visual aids and land markers will be used where necessary.
- A Learning Group will play in their designated zone for one week.
 The zone will be rotated on a weekly basis, so students have variety in where they play/socialize.

- Students can socialize with others outside of their learning group while outside but must maintain social distance.
- You child's Learning Group will also be assigned to Lunch 1 or Lunch 2. If your child is assigned to Lunch 1 they will eat lunch before they play outside. If your child is assigned to Lunch 2 they will participate in a reverse lunch and play during the first half of lunch and eat in the second half.
- You will be informed of your child's recess and lunch times by your classroom teacher.

Alternate Dismissal – to avoid large crowds at the end of the day the school will dismiss students in two shifts (explained below). We ask that parents arrange for a meeting spot off school ground for older and more capable students.

Dismissal 1 (3:10 pm) – First Round bus students, foot traffic and parent pick-up.

- Students falling in the Dismissal 1 group will be released by their teacher first and asked to go directly to their meeting spot, begin walking home or go directly to their bus zone accordingly.
- Bus students will load their buses immediately. This will not be an opportunity to play on equipment or in the courtyard.
- Parents picking up their primary students will be required to social distance while on school grounds.
- To avoid crowds we are asking that students and parents avoid lingering on school grounds during our school dismissal (approximately 3:10 3:30pm).

Dismissal 2 (3:20 pm) – Second Round bus students

- Second round bus students will be released after the First Round students are out of the hallways. Second Round students will move to an assigned classroom of their Learning Group where they will be able to relax until the first round of buses have exited the property (approximately 3:25 pm).
- Upon dismissal they are to move directly to the bus zone and maintain social distancing between other students not in their Learning Group while they wait for their bus.

*The bus schedule (arrival and departure times) and order they line up in is the same every day and coordinated with the high school.

There is approximately six buses per round. For instance, our 'First Round' bus students load the bus and then go to PSO to pick up the high school students before heading out on the route. The 'Second Round' buses load the high school students first and then come to our school for the elementary kids before heading out on their bus route.

*If you child has used bus transportation last year, they will know what 'round' they are in. Younger students and new to our school students will receive help to learn the bus routine.

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. The school will make every effort to minimize staff interacting outside of their learning group as much as possible.
- o If a teacher or EA is interacting outside of their designated Learning Group they will practice physical distancing.

	Teachers will supervise their Learning Group at recess and after school	
Visitors to the School		
Visitor access during school hours prioritized to those entering to support activities that benefit student learning and well-being	The staff of 100 Mile Elementary 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 and caregivers are asked to arrange for a meeting spot outside of the school to drop-off/pickup their children. Your classroom teacher will have suggestions and recommendations based on the age of your child to help with morning and after school routines. • We recognize that kindergarten parents may want to be more involved in the morning and after school routines. Kindergarten teachers are working closely with administration regarding safety measures and will communicate special procedures and processes for parents of our kindergarten children. • To meet in person with a teacher or administration, parents are asked to call ahead of time and make an appointment so that the appropriate time and space can be arranged. • Parents dropping off items / last minute communication - use the front entrance and report directly to the office where parents will	

be assisted by a staff member (i.e. students will meet with their parents near the office or the item will be delivered to the child's classroom)

- Visitors / Parents are not to bypass the office and go directly to their child classroom.
- Visitors who are invited into the school will be asked to sign-in and provide contact information for contact tracing if necessary.
 Visitors will also be asked to confirm that they have completed their daily health checklist.
- All visitors are required to hand sanitize before entering our building. A hand sanitizing station will be set up at our front entrance.

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).

100 Mile Elementary will continue to run their food programs to the best of their ability while adhering to the safety protocols.

- **Breakfast Program** To avoid crowding we will not be running our Breakfast Program out of our gym. Instead, our Breakfast Program Coordinator will provide healthy breakfast foods to classrooms for students to access.
- Sandwich Program sandwiches will be pre-made and placed in individual sandwich bags in the staff refrigerator for students to access as needed.

- Fruit & Veggie Program We will no longer have a communal fruit and veggie bowl in the office. Instead, 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).

Student Transportation

Buses will be available to transport students to and from school.

Buses will be cleaned in accordance to recommendations set by the Centre for Disease Control

Middle and secondary students are required to wear non-medical masks

Implement strategies where practical to reduce the number of close inperson interactions between students not in the same Learning Group or household Buses will be available to transport students to and from school. Thank you for your attention to the following details. Our primary focus remains the health and safety of students and staff.

- We will encourage private vehicle use where possible to decrease transportation density
- If room allows, students should sit one per seat, next to the window. If space is limited, students from the same household or cohort may sit together
- Masks must be worn by middle and high school students (*Grades 8-12 in the South End*) while on the bus. Two reusable masks will be issued by the bus driver to each student requiring them on their first trip. If a student can't wear a mask for medical reasons, the bus dispatch office and school principal must be informed before the student rides the bus.
- Students must remain seated. No food or drinks. Large items that can't sit on a student's lap will not be allowed on the bus or in the under compartments. This includes large instruments and hockey bags.

		 Students will need to be registered to ride the bus (If you rode the bus last year you are registered. If you are a new student or have changed bus routes since last June please contact the bus garage at 250-395-2230 or 100mile.busing@sd27.bc.ca Students may only ride on the bus they are registered on. Do not arrange for a friend to ride your bus for an afterschool play date. Attendance will be taken for each trip for contact tracing purposes Buses will be disinfected after each trip. If a student develops any symptoms of illness they are NOT to ride the bus. Parents will be contacted to pick up their child from school if they become ill during the day.
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Environmental Measures		
BC Health Officer Recommended Return to School Guidelines	100 Mile Elementary Site-Based Response New Norms, Routines and Procedures	
Cleaning & Disinfecting		
Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces.	The school will have enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols and implement procedures and routines that will help to reduce frequently touched areas and we will implement traffic flow patterns to maintain the effectiveness of Learning Groups.	

We are a safe welcoming learning community based on respect, caring and cooperation.

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 (doorknobs, toilet handles, shared tables, etc), including at least once during regular school hours.

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

There is no current evidence of COVID-19 transmission in playground environments. Playgrounds are a safe environment. The following measures should be taken when using playgrounds: appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after playground use, attempt to minimize direct contact between students

Increase Cleaning & Custodial Time

- The school will receive extra custodial time to help with cleaning frequently touched surfaces when available
- Staff will have access to cleaning products to clean the hard surfaces in their classrooms 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 that were affected.

Playgrounds are not required to be cleaned. Students will wash their hands before going out to play and again when they re-enter the building. Supervisors will discourage direct physical contact between students and explore ways to play that allow for more space between students.

Fountai – the water bottle fill stations will be available for students to use. Drinking directly from the fountain will be discouraged. The fountains will be cleaned three times daily.

Bathrooms

Physical distancing (2m) for elementary students when interacting with peers *outside* of their learning groups while indoors.

We have multiple washrooms in our building for student use.

Learning Groups will be assigned to a bathroom to limit crowding.

Classrooms who may be sharing a bathroom *with people outside* of their Learning Group will be provided with a bathroom schedule. Teachers will help to encourage students to plan to use the washroom during their designated times. The bathroom schedule will be used ONLY as a

means to limit the number of students in a confined space. If a child is having a bathroom emergency, they will be permitted to use the washroom. Students will not be denied the use of the washroom. Washrooms shared with more than one Learning Group will be cleaned more frequently than those that are not shared outside of the Learning Group o Floor markers will be used to help students know where to stand while waiting to use the sink. o Teachers will use a tracking system and limit the number of students in their classroom using the washroom at the same time (i.e. one student in the washroom at a time). o The 'open concept' bathroom which has individual stalls in the primary section of the school is less of a concern for overcrowding the intermediate washrooms. Students will not be allowed to socialize in the washroom. **Limit Sharing** Limit sharing and frequent touch areas where possible. • Teachers will limit the sharing of items as much as practical. Students will have a pencil case with their own writing and cutting utensils. Technology will be shared between learning groups where practical to do so. The teacher will disinfect technology before sharing between students. Plush toys and items that are difficult to clean will be removed

Assigned Doors - Classrooms will be assigned a door that they will use to enter and exit the building. Classrooms will utilize fire exit doors where possible. Hallway Traffic and Use - 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 practical. Staff will model and teach hallway etiquette.

Communication and Engagement 100 Mile Elementary Site-Based Response New Norms, Routines and Procedures

Parent Communication

Newsletters – a school newsletter will be posted every two weeks. The regular format for newsletters will be implemented. Parents will be asked at the beginning of the year which format they prefer – email, Facebook, or a paper copy. All newsletters will be posted on our SD website.

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 – PAC meetings will be scheduled as usual. Adults will physically distance at meetings. The option to join in the meeting through a virtual platform will be offered.

CPF Meetings – meetings will be held virtually this year. Schedule TBA

IEP Meetings

Meetings will be scheduled as normal. Adults will physically distance and follow school safety measures at the meetings.

Continuity of Education Plan

If Required to Switch to Stage 3:

-the school will implement a hybrid option close to what happened in the spring

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

-teachers will provide schoolwork for the duration of the quarantine so that the child is not behind in their course work.

References and Supporting Documents:

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings

We are a safe welcoming learning community based on respect, caring and cooperation.

Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Setting

K-12 Education Re-Start Plan

WorkSafe BC Restaurants, cafes, pubs, and nightclubs: Protocols for returning to operation

COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool