



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 27 COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR K-12 SETTING STAGE 2

PRINCIPLES

In complement to the Ministry of Education's overarching principles for the COVID-19 response, the Ministry along with education partners articulated the following principles with respect to health and safety:

- All schools will adhere to the standards, guidelines, and direction from the Public Health Officer (PHO) and WorkSafeBC.
- In collaboration with education partners, the Ministry may develop additional health and safety requirements for all schools to ensure consistency across the K-12 system. These additions will enhance, not duplicate, PHO and WorkSafeBC requirements.
- Psychological safety measures and trauma-informed practice will be valued and implemented alongside physical health and safety measures.
- Effective communication with all community partners, parents, students, unions and employees is an essential aspect of successfully implementing these guidelines.

OBJECTIVES

As a part of ensuring continuity of learning and educational outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic, these guidelines are intended to support K-12 employees, students, parents, administrators and school community members to:

- Be informed about public health measures and feel safe in schools.
- Understand their roles and responsibilities in maintaining and promoting public health and school safety.

HELPFUL RESOURCES- Give latest links

- BC Ministry of Education [B.C.'s Back to School Plan](#)
- BC Ministry of Education [K-12 Education Restart Plan](#)
- District website at www.sd27.bc.ca for regular updates



In SD#27, all schools and sites will establish protocols for accessing work sites and minimizing risk, including:

- Establishing clear site-based protocols for staff and student access to site
- Parents are responsible for ensuring students are symptom free prior to attending school.
- Staff are responsible for ensuring they are symptom free prior to attending the work site.
 - Sites will have processes for staff or students leaving if sick
 - Sites will need locations for students who are unable to return home
- SD#27 and schools will communicate with families the importance of students not attending if sick
- Sites should not have visitors or volunteers, but if they do, it should be by appointment.
 - Itinerant staff will visit and provide regular service and will adhere to specific site protocols, including physical distancing and/or masks
- Sites will have clearly designated staff and student wash areas
- Students will bring limited materials to school (backpack, water bottle, etc.) and should not share belongings. School supplies and paper may be shared.
 - Parents should not send students with food that needs to be prepared or heated
- PPE, as indicated by the Health Authority, are not a primary mitigation strategy, but will have specific uses, especially if physical distancing cannot be reasonably done I.e. Hallways and common areas
 - Reusable masks will be available for staff or students who request them
 - Masks must be used where physical distancing across cohorts cannot be done
- Other PPE lab coats, shields and gloves will be made available where regularly required



Cleaning and hygiene

The health and safety of our workforce is paramount, and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure reasonable measures are taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19

- All sites will:
 - provide adequate handwashing and sanitizing facilities on site for all staff and ensure the location is visible and easily accessed. Develop policies around when staff must wash their hands, including upon arriving for work, before and after breaks, after handling cash or other materials, before and after handling common equipment (photocopiers, etc.).
 - Where possible, schools will maximize classrooms with sinks for additional hand washing
 - Consistent focus on handwashing and hygiene
 - Schools will provide additional hand sanitizing stations to the extent possible
 - Implement a cleaning protocol for all common areas and surfaces, including washrooms, equipment, tools, common tables, desks, light switches, and door handles. Ensure those engaged in cleaning have adequate training and materials.
 - Washrooms should be cleaned at least once a day or as needed
 - High touch surfaces should be wiped down at least twice a day
 - Provide time between movement of students for necessary wipe-down or cleaning (this can and should be done by any available staff)
 - Remove any unnecessary tools or equipment that may elevate the risk of transmission
 - Staff should not prepare food or share implements or preparation areas

Maintaining physical distance

Our focus on physical distancing remains with the adult population or where there may be cross cohort contact. The Health Authority has been clear that risk of transmission across students and from students is very low. In schools, it will be difficult to maintain that level between staff and students and especially between students.

- Adults on site will continue to adhere to physical distancing guidelines or 2 metres wherever possible.



- Ensure we do not increase the number of adults in a building beyond regular workforce and specific workspaces do not exceed density (e.g., photocopy room, office space, washrooms, and other small spaces), and limiting the number of staff at one time in break locations.
- Implement measures to ensure workers can maintain a distance of two metres when serving or working with or near members of the public, where possible, specifically in office or clerical areas where the public may engage (plexi-glass, tape, physical barriers).
- Traffic flow needs to be clear at all schools

Where physical distance cannot be maintained

BUSES: with the full return of students, there are additional measures reflecting the higher density of students on buses.

- Students in middle and secondary school will wear a mask
 - Grades 8-12 in the South end
 - Grades 7-12 in the North end
 - Grades 8-9 in rural and remote
 - Student will need to have their mask on before loading
 - They can remove masks after unloading
- Students will sit in family groups where possible
- Bus drivers will be provided with a barrier or face shield to limit potential risk when loading and unloading
- Staff will limit and avoid physical contact with students
- **Detailed transportation information will be shared with all families on or near the August 26 announcement**

In the event of illness

In the event of a COVID-19 related illness at a SD#27 work site, procedures will be in place to ensure safety standards are maintained. The provincial health officer and the BC CDC have issued the following guidance around self-isolation:

- anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and painful swallowing, must self-isolate at home [for a minimum of 10 days](#) .
- anyone under the direction of the provincial health officer to self-isolate must follow those instructions
- anyone who has arrived from outside of Canada, or who is a contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case, to [self-isolate for 14 days and monitor](#) for symptoms



- Prohibit or limit visitors.
- Staff who feel ill while at work will follow site protocols for:
 - Informing administration
 - Arranging appropriate transportation home if other than themselves
 - Leave by designated exit to minimize contact with others
- Sites will receive increased/intense cleaning as appropriate if evidence of COVID-19 like illness

SD#27: STAGE 2 RE-ENTRY OF STUDENTS

STAGE 1 IN-CLASS	STAGE 2 IN-CLASS	STAGE 3 HYBRID	STAGE 4 HYBRID	STAGE 5 REMOTE
<p>COHORT SIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary: <i>No limit</i> • Middle: <i>No limit</i> • Secondary: <i>No limit</i> <p>DENSITY TARGETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable <p>In-Class Instruction Full-time all students, all grades</p>	<p>COHORT SIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary: 60 • Middle: 60 • Secondary: 120 <p>DENSITY TARGETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable <p>In-Class Instruction Full-time instruction for all students for the maximum instructional time possible within cohort limits.</p> <p>Self-directed learning supplements in-class instruction, if required</p>	<p>COHORT SIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary: 30 • Middle: 30 • Secondary: 60 <p>DENSITY TARGETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% for all schools <p>In-Class Instruction Full-time instruction for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of essential service workers • Students with disabilities/diverse abilities • Students who require additional supports <p>In-class instruction for all other students for the maximum time possible within cohort limits and density targets.</p> <p>Self-directed and remote learning supplements in-class instruction.</p>	<p>COHORT SIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary: 30 • Middle: 30 • Secondary: 30 <p>DENSITY TARGETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% for all schools <p>In-Class Instruction Full-time instruction for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of essential service workers • Students with disabilities/diverse abilities • students who require additional supports <p>In-class instruction for all other students for the maximum time possible within cohort limits and density targets.</p> <p>Self-directed and remote learning supplements in-class instruction.</p>	<p>COHORT SIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary: 0 • Middle: 0 • Secondary: 0 <p>DENSITY TARGETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0% for all schools <p>In-Class Instruction Suspend in-class instruction for all students.</p> <p>Self-directed and remote learning in place of in-class instruction.</p>

COHORTS/ LEARNING GROUPS

WHAT IS A LEARNING GROUP?



- A Learning Group is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout the school quarter, semester or year, and who primarily interact with each other.
- Examples include a single class, multiple classes that occasionally meet for additional learning activities, or a group of secondary school students with the same courses.
- Extracurricular activities will likely involve students interacting outside of their Learning Groups and will require appropriate physical distancing in those circumstances.
- Learning Groups are recommended by the Provincial Health Officer as an effective way to limit the number of interactions between people in schools and subsequently reduce potential exposures to COVID-19.



SD#27 schools will restart in Stage 2 as follows:

Rural-Small Schools (Likely, Horsefly, Big Lake, Lac La Hache, Naghtaneqed, Dog Creek, Alexis Creek, Tatla, Anahim)

- All of our small rural schools are under the smallest cohort of 60 and essentially are their own community. **Stage 2 will begin September 10 with all students attending.**

Larger Elementary Schools

- Our elementary schools have 2 groups of sizes.
 - Horse Lake, Forest Grove, 108 Mile, 150 Mile, Chilcotin Road, Mountview are all relatively small schools (200 +/-) and cohort management will be fairly straightforward. **Stage 2 will begin September 10 with all students attending for cohort orientation.**
 - 100 Mile Elementary, Marie Sharpe, Cataline, Nesika are slightly larger (300+/-) and will have extended measures to manage cohorts. **Stage 2 will begin September 10 for cohort orientation. This may occur over the 10th and 11th.**
- School strategies may include:
 - Staggered recess/lunch
 - Increased use of outside/environmental learning
 - Traffic flow and site planning

Secondary Schools

- Secondary Schools will be moving from the traditional semester system (4 courses/20 weeks) to the quarter system (2 courses/10 weeks).
- Limiting to 2 courses at a time will help manage cohorts. **However, secondary administration may not be able to maintain the breadth of choice in programming that was available prior to the pandemic.**
 - Students will not use lockers. With only 2 classes, it should be manageable on a day-to-day basis and help limit hallway congestion
 - Masks will be required in common areas and hallways
 - Students will attend classes in cohorts
 - Lunch breaks will have recommended areas and scheduled times
 - Following their afternoon class, students will return to their bus and return home.
- **COHORT orientation will be planned by the schools over September 10-11.**

MOVEMENT of STAFF

- TTOC's, itinerant staff and other casual employees will familiarize themselves with site protocols as needed. If they have cross cohort contact, they will need to physical distance or wear a mask.



COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

SD#27 will provide all communications through regular channels for parents and partner groups. Any posters or associated materials will be provided to all sites and posted accordingly.

All schools will post their site-specific plans for:

- Site access and risk limitation
- Cleaning and hygiene
- Establishing and managing cohorts
- Physical distancing where necessary
- Scheduled return of students as per Ministry expectations

SCHOOL PLANS

School plans will be shared and posted by schools.