



May 8, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Re: COVID-19 Information Bulletin

The last six weeks have been difficult for everyone. We have been forced to continually plan and make changes to adapt to this 'new normal' in education. I have seen firsthand during my visits to our learning hubs just how our students and staff are pivoting, thriving, and enjoying their time together. I've heard stories from staff about the successes and the challenges students and parents are enduring with remote learning. Thank you.

As a long-time educator and parent, I can understand how stressful it is to take on more roles than ever before. The District appreciates your support in working alongside our staff in helping deliver our Continuity of Learning Plan.

Transition Back to In-class Learning

As you may have heard in the media, as part of its BC Restart Plan, the province announced five stages leading to a safe and full return to in-class learning. We are currently in **Stage Four** which includes in-class learning for children of essential service workers and vulnerable students, and remote and online learning for most students. Please see the table provided by the province below.

Education Stages for K-12 Students
Stage 5 Suspend all in-class instruction for all grades and students. Remote and online learning for all students.
Stage 4 *current stage In-class learning for children of essential service workers and vulnerable students. Remote and online learning continues for most students.
Stage 3 In-class learning for students in K to Grade 5 on a part-time basis. Access to in-class learning as needed for Grades 6 to 12 on a part-time basis. Remote and online learning continues to be available for students
Stage 2 In-class learning for all students in elementary school (K to Grade 7) on a full-time basis. In-class learning for secondary students (Grades 8 to 12) on a part-time basis. Remote and online learning continues to be available for secondary students.
Stage 1 A return to full in-class instruction.

The province has not outlined set dates for the transition back to in-class learning. Our District will continue to take direction from the Ministry of Education and Provincial Health Office and communicate this information as soon as it is available. We understand some families are concerned about the COVID-19 virus. I want to assure you that our District will be careful, cautious, and will take time to roll out a transition plan at a pace that is healthy and safe for students, staff, and families. To read the province's education approach announced earlier this week, view [here](#).

Expansion of Support for Essential Service Workers

Beginning next week, we will be expanding support for Tier 2 Essential Service Workers. We have provided support for approximately 100 children of Tier 1 Essential Service Workers in our learning hubs. This number will grow, as we will be providing support for both Tier 1 and Tier 2 children at all of our home schools during regular school hours.

School staff will be working together to deliver in-class support in addition to delivering remote education. We ask for your trust and patience while we transition and open our schools to more students. We are confident the set-up of our learning hubs which have strict health and safety protocols can be replicated in all of our schools, ensuring a smooth transition.

If you are a Tier 1 or 2 Essential Service Worker and:

- you have exhausted all other opportunities for supervision of your child
- you are unable to work from home
- your children attend Langley Schools
- you need support for your child in order to fulfill your role

We are working to provide care to the best of our abilities in your child's home school location.

Please be aware that:

- these services are available Monday to Friday during your child's school's regular hours and while you are working
- there are no fees attached to this service
- this care will have students supported by a variety of school-based staff who will be working from your child's learning plan as provided by your child's classroom teacher
- support for learning will be provided using current physical distancing practices and will look different than it has previously
- children of Essential Service Workers will continue to have their own classroom teacher(s) support them remotely, as do all Langley school children
- children will be placed in multi-age groupings, located in their home school locations
- spaces at sites may be limited due to physical distancing requirements of both children and staff
- while students are attending their home school, health & safety guidelines and protocols now reflect our current COVID-19 reality, and you will be required to acknowledge and abide by these new guidelines
- before and after school care may be available at your home school but is not guaranteed. Arrangements for before and after school care will be the responsibility of families.

If your family is in need of support, please contact your child's school administrator.

Expansion of In-person Support for Diverse Learners

The District is planning to provide more in-person support for some diverse learners in all of our schools in the coming weeks. Our District and school staff are connecting and coordinating with families. We recognize remote learning is not suitable for some students. We want to do what we can to help students be successful.

As we approach Mother's Day, I hope families have a safe and meaningful weekend. Even with COVID-19 restrictions loosening, I want to remind you to continue physical distancing and health & safety best practices. I know this Mother's Day weekend may not be the usual way for you and your family to celebrate, but I hope you will still find opportunities to make memories with your loved ones.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gord Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Gord Stewart
Superintendent of Schools