

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 35 (LANGLEY)

PLANNING PARTIAL RETURN TO SCHOOL

Health and Safety FAQs for Parents/Guardians

May 20, 2020

The following answers are based on information found in the province's COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings. If you require more details, please refer to the document [here](#) which is found on BC's Safe & Healthy Schools webpage.

WHAT IS THE RISK OF MY CHILD GETTING INFECTED WITH COVID-19?

The COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children and youth. In BC, less than 1% of children and youth tested have been COVID-19 positive. Most children and youth are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection. Children who are considered more vulnerable can receive in-person instruction. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to consult with their health care provider to determine if their child should attend in-person instruction if they are uncertain.

WITH THE PROVINCIAL BAN ON MASS GATHERINGS, HOW CAN SCHOOLS OPERATE WITH SO MANY STUDENTS/STAFF INSIDE THEM?

The provincial order which bans more than 50 people in one place does not apply to regular school activities. As such, there can be more than 50 students and staff in a school at any given time if they are not all in one area and if they are actively engaged in physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. However, large assemblies of staff and students should not be held.

WHEN SHOULD A STUDENT/STAFF MEMBER STAY AT HOME DUE TO ILLNESS?

All students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 or travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days or were identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate, including children of essential service workers who are ill. 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. Staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school.

WHAT IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER IS SICK AT SCHOOL?

As with any other situation prior to this health crisis, parents/guardians would be contacted, and the student would be cared for by school staff until they are picked up as soon as possible. Health and safety protocols such as physical distancing, handwashing, and proper cleaning and sanitizing would continue as usual. Protocols may vary depending on the school.

In the event a staff member is sick, they would inform their administrator, who would then make staff arrangements to cover the remainder of the in-person learning for that day. The staff member who is ill would be sent home as soon as possible.

WHAT IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER IS FOUND TO BE A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19?

The District will be taking direction from the Fraser Health Authority. Public Health staff will ensure there is robust contact tracing and management of any clusters or outbreaks. They will also ensure that students, staff, and parents have access to health care providers and that appropriate supports are in place.

CAN STUDENTS OR STAFF WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) SUCH AS MASKS OR GLOVES?

Personal Protective Equipment is not effective as a stand-alone preventive measure, it should be suited to the task, and must be worn and disposed of properly. Outside of health care settings, the effectiveness of PPE is generally limited to protecting others should you be infected. PPE is not required, beyond those used by staff as part of regular precautions for the hazards normally encountered in their regular course of work (e.g. managing students with complex behaviours, on a delegated care plan, experiencing a health emergency).

A student or staff member can personally choose to wear a mask if they have one. It is important to treat anyone wearing masks with respect.

WHAT CLEANING AND DISINFECTING MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN?

General cleaning and disinfecting of schools will occur at least once a day. Frequently touched surfaces (e.g. doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles) will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day. Garbage cans will be emptied daily. Each school will have their own schedules for cleaning based on the number of students and staff in the building.

WHAT IS THE ADULT TO STUDENT RATIO FOR IN-PERSON LEARNING?

The District will ensure that classes with one teacher will have no more than 50 percent of students at a time.

HOW WILL SCHOOLS IMPLEMENT PHYSICAL DISTANCING?

Schools will consider different classroom and learning environment configurations to allow distance between students and staff (e.g. different desk and table formations). Outdoor learning will be encouraged when possible. Groups will be smaller. Pick-up/drop-offs and recess/lunch breaks may be staggered. Each school will have their own school configuration and timetable schedules based on the number of students and staff in the building.

CAN PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS COME IN TO TOUR THE SCHOOL AND SEE HOW IT IS SET-UP?

Parents and caregivers and other non-staff adults are not allowed to enter the school unless authorized by the administrator or a staff member. If permissible, adults/visitors entering the school must follow health and safety procedures outlined by the school.

HOW OFTEN WILL STUDENTS BE WASHING THEIR HANDS?

Handwashing will be encouraged throughout the day including but not limited to the following: upon arrival/leaving school, before and after recess/lunch breaks, before and after activities outdoors. Hand sanitizer will be made available in areas of the school where it is needed as an option for students and staff.