



August 31, 2021

COVID-19 Guidelines 2021-22 – Frequently Asked Questions

Why is there no mask mandate for students in K-3?

As announced by the province, masks for students in K-3 are no longer required. The District will be encouraging students in K-3 to wear a mask. Mask wearing for these students continues to be a family/caregiver choice. Masks are only one layer of protection. As per public health, the best way to protect everyone is for people who are eligible to get vaccinated.

As announced by the province, masks will continue to be required for all K-12 staff, students in grades 4-12, and visitors when indoors and on buses (with exceptions). See further information regarding bussing [here](#).

Masks are not required for students, staff, and visitors when outdoors.

Why is there no vaccine mandate for students and staff?

As announced by the province, students, staff, and visitors are not required to be vaccinated but it is strongly recommended. The District is encouraging all students, staff, and visitors to get vaccinated before the start of the school year. As advised by public health, vaccines are the best way to keep everyone healthy and safe, especially those in the community who are not eligible to get vaccinated.

Walk-in vaccination clinics are available for anyone over the age of 12 years old. For more information on vaccine clinics in Fraser Health, read here: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/vax#.YSw77tNKibs>

Why is there no vaccine passport required for students and staff?

As announced by the province, students, staff, and visitors are not required to show proof of vaccination. As per the province, schools are controlled environments with comprehensive health and safety measures already in place and attendance of students, staff, and visitors is taken daily. Half of K-12 students are under 12 years old, not eligible for vaccines, and therefore, the vaccine passport would not be applicable.

A vaccine passport could be applicable, when and if schools host an event (like a concert open to parents/public). Schools will share additional information with the community where and when appropriate.

Why are there no cohorts and physical distancing required?

As announced by the province, cohort and physical distancing is no longer required. However, the District will be working with administration and school staff to develop creative ways to maximize space amongst students and staff in classes. Strategies may include using directional arrows and posters in hallways, spreading out desks and tables in a classroom, and encouraging everyone to respect others' personal space. Taking classes outdoors will continue to be encouraged.

Will the District improve ventilation in schools?

The District upgraded HVAC systems with MERV 13 filters in all sites including portables prior to last year school year. These upgrades meet and exceed provincial ventilation requirements.

Will students be able to take online courses online if they feel unsafe? Will there be the Transition Support Model in September?

There continues to be a range of choices for students and their families in September. The District will not be offering the Transition Support Model for this school year. Students will be able to learn online through Distributed Learning programs offered at [U-Connect](#) (Elementary, Middle, Secondary) or [Langley Education Centre](#) (Secondary). Students also have the option of [homeschooling](#). If you have questions about options for your child, please connect with your school administrator.

If a student enrolls in a Distributed Learning program or chooses homeschooling, will they be able to save their spot at their catchment school or choice school?

Due to significant increases in student enrolment K-12 in the Langley School District, if a student chooses to enroll in a Distributed Learning program or is homeschooled, the school will not be able to save a student's space at their catchment school or choice school. In the event a student leaves for the school year, they will have to re-enroll for their catchment or choice school and follow regular procedures regarding registration and timeline. If you have questions, please connect with your school administrator.

Why can't the District implement its own guidelines?

The District takes direction from the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Office regarding public health matters. The District also follows regional and local health and safety measures developed by the Fraser Health Authority. Changes to any health and safety guidelines can only come from public health authorities. The District defers to health authorities on decision making as they base their advice on science and data collected by public health. The District trusts health experts and their work to help keep our students, staff, and community safe.

Why are the guidelines in schools different from other community settings (e.g., restaurants, stores, recreation centers)?

The District takes direction from the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Office. As per the province, all schools follow the health and safety outlines in the [BCCDC's Public Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#). Other sites within the Langley School District (non-education sites such as the school board office) follow WorkSafeBC guidelines which are different from school settings. Other community settings will have health and safety measures in place implemented by the province and/or regional/local authority.

Isn't the District concerned about COVID-19 exposures in schools due to increasing case counts/Delta variant?

The District shares the community's concern over COVID-19 cases. The District acknowledges that as long as there is COVID-19 in the community, there will be exposures in schools. The District understands the more eligible people are immunized; the less likely school exposures may lead to transmission. The District is confident the COVID-19 measures in place for the school year will help in protecting the health and safety of students, staff, and community members.

Cette notification est importante. S'il vous plaît demandez à quelqu'un pour la traduire afin d'être bien informé(e) à propos de l'école.

هذه الرسالة مهمة، الرجاء أن تطلب من أحد الأشخاص ترجمتها لك لأنها تحتوي على معلومات مهمة من المدرسة

这是一个很重要的通知。请找人翻译它的内容，这样你就可以及时知道学校的情况。

ਇਹ ਇੱਕ ਸ਼ੁੱਧੀ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਕਰੋ ਕਿਸੇ ਪੜ੍ਹੇ ਅਧਿਆਪਕ ਕਰਕੇ ਜਾਂ ਕੋਈ ਹੋਰ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਸ਼ਖ਼ਸੀ ਸਹਾਇਕੀ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਸਵੀਕਾਰ ਕਰੋ।

이것은 중요한 공지사항입니다. 이것을 번역할 수 있는 분에게 부탁해서 여러분이 학교에서 공지하는 것에 대하여 정확하게 인지할 수 있기를 바랍니다.

Đây là một thông báo quan trọng. Xin vui lòng nhờ người dịch để bạn có thể biết thêm những thông tin về trường học.

Este es un aviso importante. Por favor consiga que alguien se lo traduzca para que usted pueda mantenerse bien informado sobre la información de su escuela.

Ito ay isang mahalagang notisya. Mangyari po lamang ay magkaroon ng taong tagasalin ng wika upang ikaw ay maging batid tungkol sa impormasyon ng paaralan.