



May 27, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Central Okanagan Public Schools prepared a plan to resume in-class instruction that aligns with the [Ministry of Education's five-stage approach](#) and [BC's Restart Plan](#). Our plan and safety protocols are informed by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and reviewed by the Province of BC. Along with the Ministry of Education guidelines for continuity of learning, safety is at the heart of how we will work together to make sure that everyone is prepared to resume in-class learning in September.

### **In-Class Learning**

Starting June 1, 2020 - Stage 3 of the K-12 Education Restart Plan will begin. Parents/guardians have the option for their child(ren) to return to part-time in-class instruction:

- Remote/on-line learning opportunities will continue throughout the month of June.
- Parents and caregivers are asked to monitor their children daily for symptoms.
- If you did not complete the survey for attendance, please contact your school as soon as possible to let them know if your child will attend.
- As noted by the BCCDC, there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper, or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution or sharing of books or paper based educational resources to students because of COVID-19.
- In-class instruction will continue until June 25.
- Your school principal sent you a letter with further details on expanding onsite services for your specific school.

### **Health and Safety Protocols**

#### **Your Responsibilities**

While our school spaces have strict protocols for hygiene and cleaning, these are the measures we ask that you take to help us maintain safety for everyone.

- 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 and students who are ill, including children of Essential Service Workers, will not be permitted to attend school (*Note: Students and employees should stay home until deemed healthy to return*).

- If you are unsure, use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#).
  - If concerned, contact 8-1-1, or the local public health unit to seek further input, or
  - Contact a family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19.
- Drop off children at the designated entrance to the school, using site specific protocols.
- Please send only the items your child may need for the time they are at school, limiting any unnecessary belongings. Ensure personal items are well labelled.
- If your child develops symptoms while at school, they will be isolated, and a parent/guardian will be contacted and required to pick up the child as soon as possible.
- To ensure efficient entry and exit of students while respecting physical distancing expectations, parents/guardians are expected to make sure that pick-ups and drop-offs happen at the scheduled time.

## **School Responsibilities**

### ***Cleaning (while students and staff are in attendance):***

- Schools will ensure regular cleaning and disinfecting of sites at least once a day.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day. These include doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks, chairs, keyboards and toys.
- Items that cannot be easily cleaned will not be used (ie. dress up clothing and stuffed toys).
- Garbage cans will be emptied daily.
- Hand sanitizer and/or soap and water will be available throughout the building. Sanitizers will be available at entrances to sites. Students and staff will be reminded to wash their hands regularly and signs will be posted.

### ***Site Access:***

- Schools are open only to staff and those students who have indicated that they will be attending (schedules will be provided to families by their schools).
- Parents/guardians must drop off students outside the school and not enter the school unless invited by the principal.
- Everyone entering schools must wash or sanitize their hands upon entry.

### ***Physical Distancing:***

From the BCCDC:

*Physical distancing (e.g. maintaining 2 metres between two or more people) is challenging in a K-12 school setting, particularly with younger students. As such, it is reasonable to establish different expectations for varying age levels and activities. For example, younger students should be supported to have minimized physical contact with one another, while older students and adults should seek to maintain a safe physical distance whenever possible.*

- Where practical, everyone will follow physical distancing. For younger students, staff will support them in minimizing physical contact (ie. keeping “hands to yourself,” avoiding close greetings, spreading out smaller groups, respecting floor markings, avoiding shared items).
- No large gatherings: virtual assemblies and other school-wide events will avoid large gatherings of people in one space.
- Recess/snack, lunch and class transition times will be staggered to provide a greater amount of space for everyone.
- Staff will organize more learning activities outside, including snack time, place-based learning, and activities that involve movement, including those for physical health and education.
- Playgrounds are a safe environment, and staff will continue to support appropriate personal hygiene practices before, during, and after outdoor play.
- Schools will incorporate more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between students and staff.

***Student and Staff Responsibilities:***

- Follow all site-based health and safety protocols.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks and gloves are not needed, beyond those used by staff as part of regular precautions for the hazards normally encountered in their regular course of work.
- Stay home when sick.
- Do not use cubbies or lockers.
- Bring your own filled water bottle. Water fountains will not be accessible.
- Only bring essential items, limiting any unnecessary belongings.
- Wash hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19. If sinks are not available (e.g., students and staff are outdoors), use alcohol-based hand rub containing at least 60% alcohol.
- If hands are visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand rub may not be effective at eliminating respiratory viruses. Soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly dirty.
- Cough and sneeze into their elbow, sleeve, or a tissue. Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.
- Refrain from touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unwashed utensils, or personal items.
- Physical distance whenever possible (two metres) and keep “Hands to Yourself”.
- Immediately notify the administration if you become ill while at school.

Central Okanagan Public Schools already practices these protocols in schools across the district as we provide services for the children of Essential Service Workers, vulnerable students, and students at risk of not graduating.

### Stay Connected and Informed

Please visit [sd23.bc.ca](http://sd23.bc.ca) for updates including information and links to provincial resources.

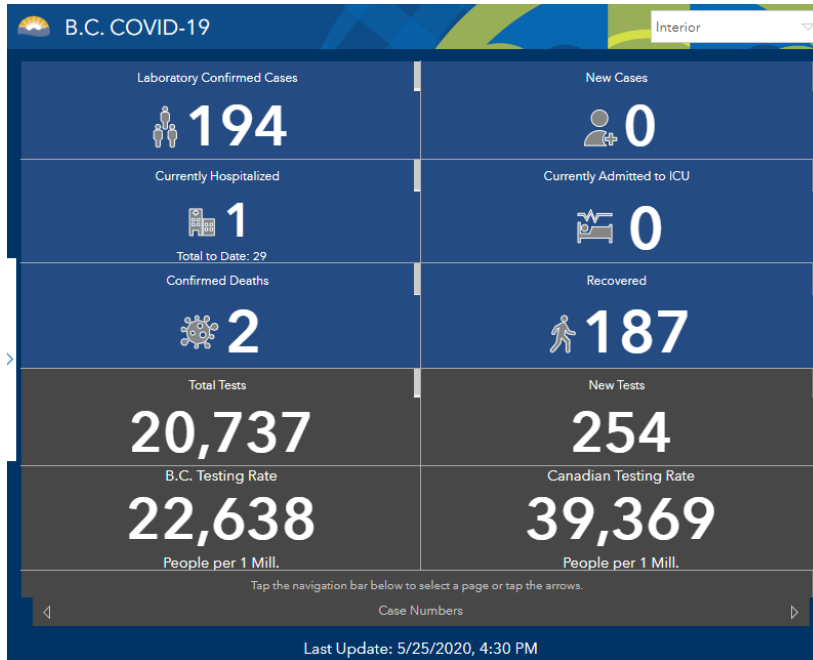
[Ministry of Education's five-stage approach](#)

[BC's Restart Plan](#)

[BC Centre for Disease Control – Information on COVID-19](#)

[BC Centre for Disease Control - Schools and Childcare Guidelines](#)

### BC COVID-19 Dashboard (Interior):



Yours sincerely,

Central Okanagan Board of Education

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