



SCHOOL DISTRICT 78 FRASER-CASCADE

EVERYONE PULLING TOGETHER

Jan. 7, 2022

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Re: In-Person Learning to Resume Monday, Jan. 10, 2022

I appreciate your patience as we navigate another challenge to our school year. Our current pandemic has been amongst road closures, flooding and environmental challenges. While the new and highly transmissible Omicron variant has been another layer for us to manage, we are optimistic that the lower severity of illness signalled that the end to our pandemic is approaching. Over this past week, schools have worked on updated health and safety plans and continuity of learning plans. Please see the attached letter and guidelines from your school, which outline the procedure for in-person learning beginning Monday, January 10, 2022.

While it is milder, the highly infectious nature of the Omicron virus means that some schools could have as much as a third of the staff away at any particular time. This will challenge our schools and specific classes to shift between in-person and online learning over a short period. Here are some reminders for parents and guardians:

- As always, please keep your child at home if they are ill or displaying symptoms of Covid. Parents, guardians, students, and staff are reminded to wash hands regularly and perform a Daily Health Check. You can download the K-12 Health Check App [HERE](#).
- We may face staffing shortages in the classroom as well as support workers, including custodians, school secretaries, bus drivers or building service workers. This may lead to cancellations of particular bus runs and/or closures of schools.
- If a school or individual classroom needs to be closed, we will move to an online format for a few days until the shortage subsides. Hopefully, none of these will impact your family, but we must be prepared for these events.
- A reminder that wearing a mask is required at school, and can help reduce these interruptions to our workforce and service provision – consider the positive impact this can have for all of us in schools.
- Please have your child wear a mask if at all possible. Masks must also be worn on all school buses.
- Fraser Health will no longer trace exposure contacts or send out notifications of exposures as they have in the past. The volume of exposures, difficulty in identifying sources, and transmission speed now make contact tracing less valuable.

- The Public Health Officer and BC Centre for Disease Control strongly encourage Self-Management if you have COVID-19 or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. This includes staying home to self-isolate and seeking medical attention if you require it. You can find detailed information on this process [HERE](#).
- Finally, while the enhanced measures provide additional layers of protection, vaccines continue to be the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 within K-12 settings. Everyone eligible is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

It has been one of the most unpredictable times in our province's history. There may be changes to our information in the coming weeks, often with short notice. We ask that we all work together to demonstrate patience, kindness and compassion for the entire school community during these times.

If you have any questions, please email me at balan.moorthy@sd78.bc.ca. Thank you once again for your ongoing patience and consideration.

Sincerely,



Balan Moorthy
Superintendent of Schools