



School District #49 (Central Coast)

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August 31, 2021

Dear families:

Welcome back to school for the 2021 school year! In an effort to bring some clarity to our Health and Safety plan for this upcoming year, please see the following:

The provincial K to 12 Education Steering Committee has worked with the Ministry of Education and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) to finalize updated communicable disease guidelines for this school year. The committee is made up of educators, parents, support workers, school leaders, trustees, First Nations, Métis Nation and public health experts. All these documents will be available on our website and will be updated as the year goes on.

Many safety measure from last year are still in place to protect students and staff and reduce the spread of COVID-19. With support from the staff and families, students are expected to:

- Complete a daily health check and not come to school if they are sick
- Respect personal space and avoid close contact,
- Practice good hand hygiene though out the day (e.g. Before and after outside play, eating and using shared learning resources)
- Use good respiratory etiquette (e.g. covering your mouth when sneezing or coughing)
- Students K- 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses but are not required to do so
- Students grade 4-12 are required to wear a mask in all indoor areas (please see guiding documents for exceptions)

With many things remaining the same as last year, your child will notice a few changes, Such as:

- There will not be learning cohorts and students can socialize with the whole student body
- Events and gathering can happen at the school if they follow the Provincial Public Health guidelines (e.g. meet the teacher night, concerts, sporting events)
- Barriers are no longer recommended for use in classrooms
- Measures will be in place to promote spacing and avoid crowding, however physical distance of 2 meters is no longer recommended
- Students can bring personal items to school, but will be encouraged not to share items that come in contact with their mouths

The most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and community is vaccines. Public Health strongly encourages all eligible students and staff to be fully vaccinated. If you or your child is eligible to be vaccinated, and you have not done so already, please contact the Bella Coola Clinic at 250 799 5324 or Sophie Mack at 250 799 5902.

Respectfully,

Steve Dishkin
Superintendent of Schools