

Peter Dubinsky

Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer

January 2, 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In response to growing case counts related to the Omicron variant, the **Provincial Government announced a delayed return to classroom instruction for all K-12 students in British Columbia, until January 10, 2022**. The government also released additional safety measures for schools, [K-12 Health and Safety Guidelines Addendum](#) which include:

- Strategies that prevent crowding during class transition times
- Hold school gatherings and events (e.g., assemblies, etc.) virtually; if they must be in-person, limit the number of people to no more than 50% operating capacity
- Hold staff-only gatherings (e.g., meetings, professional development activities) virtually where possible
- Limit visitors to those who are supporting activities that directly benefit student learning and wellbeing (e.g., teacher candidates, meal program volunteers, etc.)
- Pause extracurricular sports tournaments
- Following the [The PHO Order - Face Coverings](#) that requires all students, staff and visitors to wear a mask indoors at school. Everyone who is able to (i.e., does not have a mask exemption) must wear a mask.

District and school staff will return to school on January 4 – 7 as scheduled, to prepare for the implementation of these additional safety measures, as well as make plans to ensure continuity of learning occurs moving forward during these uncertain times. As of January 5, 2022, school bus transportation services will continue to operate, and our schools will be available to provide care and programming during regular hours for:

- K-12 students with additional support needs; and
- School aged students 5-12 years of age who are children of parents employed in essential service roles

If you have students that qualify for the early return on January 5 and plan to send them to their school next week, please contact your school principal or vice principal directly prior to January 5, 2022.

During this planning time, we will continue to work with public health officials to assess the impact of the Omicron variant on education and develop plans to remain adaptive and communicative.

Please visit the school or [district website](#) for updated information as it becomes available. We remain committed to providing a safe and caring environment for all staff and students.

Sincerely,

Peter Dubinsky

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Superintendent/Secretary Treasurer