



August 7, 2020

Dear Central Okanagan Public Schools Families and Staff:

We are writing to update you on the provincial back to school plan that was announced last week by the Minister of Education and the Provincial Health Office. In the announcement, Dr. Bonnie Henry has clearly stated that given the provincial data she is confident that it is safe to return to school.

Your trustees recognize that the announcement has raised many questions and that some of our families and staff are feeling anxious. We continue to seek answers and are focused on our schools being safe places for everyone.

Some Key Points of the Provincial Plan are as follows:

- We will be in Stage 2 of the Revised Five Stage Framework for K-12 Education, which is a full return to in-class instruction for students for the maximum time possible within limits on learning groups.
- Schools will have their regular class sizes and will be organized in Learning Groups of 60 for Grades K-8 and 120 for Grades 9-12:
  - Elementary will be in their regular class for the vast majority of the day.
  - Middle and Secondary school students will be scheduled to ensure classes are taken with students in their learning group.
  - Physical distancing and/or masks will be required for any classes that occur outside of a student's learning group.
- The Ministry is providing increased funding for:
  - Additional cleaning supplies
  - Additional cleaning staff
  - Reusable masks for staff and older students that will be available on request
- Busing will be operating under revised safety guidelines, which include mandatory masks for middle and secondary school students.

The School District is currently developing a local return to school plan that will be approved by the Province and posted on our website by August 26. District staff are currently working with middle and secondary school administration to determine if and how timetables will need to be adjusted.

Please see the following websites for more information:

BC Ministry of Education [Schools Restart Plan – 5 Stages explanation](#)

BC Ministry of Education [Schools Restart Plan](#)

BC CDC COVID-19 Public Health [Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#)

We are looking forward to welcoming our students and staff back to school in September. Please see the COVID-19 section of our website at [sd23.bc.ca](http://sd23.bc.ca) for regular updates.

Please take time to enjoy the last weeks of the summer break. Stay safe and be well.

Yours sincerely,



Moyra Baxter, Chairperson  
Board of Education

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