



Office of the Superintendent

Shelley Green - Superintendent

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
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August 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Official Return to School Plan 2020

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we refined our Restart Plan for the 2020/2021 school year. We have been working incredibly hard to develop a plan that prioritizes student and staff safety while meeting the learning needs of all our learners.

We are very excited to be welcoming our students back into our schools in a couple of weeks. We understand this September start-up will be unlike any other year but we have full confidence that our schools are ready for your children. Our successful re-entry in June has helped inform our planning and has positioned us to be ready to adapt. We also have a very committed group of professionals on our team who will continue to prepare in the coming weeks so everything is ready as students begin to arrive on September 10th.

Each school will be communicating directly with their families regarding scheduling and first day of school plans. This letter is intended to provide you the details of our Restart Plan.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Following the comprehensive measures set by the Ministries of Health and Education, the District has updated its health and safety protocols to adhere to all of the requirements of the [COVID-19 Public Health Office's Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#). All schools will be implementing the following procedures outlined in the [GVSD Exposure Control Plan for School Sites](#).

ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOLS

Schools will be organized into Learning Groups. The way schools are structured will vary across elementary, middle and secondary schools. Learning groups will not exceed 60 individuals for elementary or middle schools, or 120 individuals for secondary to help limit contact and potential exposure.

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When necessary, schools will also stagger start and end times along with recess and lunch breaks, and assign students different entries and exits to ensure that students are not interacting with others outside their Learning Group.

To learn more about how schools will be organized at the schools levels, please click on the links below for elementary, middle and secondary.

- [Elementary](#)
- [Middle](#)
- [Secondary](#)

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

All students with special needs who are enrolled in a District school will have access to the full range of supports typically offered in our schools although the delivery method may look different. All students with special needs with a Ministry designation will continue to have an IEP with personalized goals. The IEP will be in place across stages and options (e.g. hybrid), acknowledging that support strategies may vary or be adjusted for different stages and environments. Regardless of stages/environments, continuity of access to learning will remain.

The District is committed to ongoing communication and collaboration with students and families to implement plans and monitor the success of student learning goals. Parents/guardians and caregivers should communicate directly with their school team.

IMMUNE SUPPRESSION

According to the Provincial Health Officer and the Centre for Disease Control, most children who are immunocompromised can return to in-class instruction where safety measures are in place. Protective self-isolation is only recommended for children who are severely immunocompromised, as determined on a case-by-case basis.

The advice from the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control for parents/caregivers of children with complex medical conditions or underlying risk factors, or parents/caregivers who are immunocompromised themselves, is to consult with their medical health care provider to determine the level of risk regarding their child's return to in-class instruction.

Parents/caregivers seeking an alternative to in-class instruction and who do not wish to register their child in a distributed learning program or homeschooling, will be required to obtain a doctor's note indicating the need for accommodations due to health-related risks. School districts are expected to work with these families to ensure continuity of learning and supports. Accommodations could include some elements of remote learning, specific course offerings, and/or modified days. Specifics for each child need to be developed in collaboration with families and school staff.

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For students with immune suppression, if attending in-class instruction is right for the child: school and school districts work with parents or caregivers to develop options for learning to ensure appropriate preventative measures are in place.

For students with immune suppression, if attending in-class instruction is not right for the child: schools and school districts work with families to develop options to continue their child's education at school or school district.

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

Students and families will have several educational options as they plan to return to school for the 2020/21 school year. The options include:

- 1) *In-class instruction (K-12)*
- 2) *Students/Parents/Caregivers with Immune Suppression (K-12)*
- 3) [Distributed Learning \(K-12\)](#)
- 4) [Homeschooling \(K-12\)](#)

Since the release of the Stage 2 Restart Framework, the District has received many requests from families to offer additional options that allow their children to continue learning from home while holding their child's space at their school.

The District is currently considering a hybrid learning option for Grades 1 through 8. This would consist of primarily home study supplemented by in-class and remote learning.

- 5) *Hybrid Learning (*under consideration*)*

In order to explore this option, the District is assessing the level of interest. The District is surveying families to determine which option they will be selecting for their children.

SURVEY: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Return2SchoolSurvey>

It is important you communicate your child's intended learning option via this survey by 12:00 noon on August 31st so schools can effectively plan for September.

For more information on the educational options, please review the following table or visit: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/stage-2-return-to-school-plan-2020/>

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K -12 Return to School Educational Options – Stage 2

	In Class Instruction K-12	Hybrid Grades 1-8* <i>*Under consideration</i>	Students/ Parents/ Caregivers with Immune Suppression K - 12	Distributed Learning K - 12	Homeschooling K - 12
Status of Student with School	Enrolled in GVSD School	Enrolled in GVSD School	Enrolled in GVSD School	Enrolled in a Distributed Learning School	Registered as a Homeschooling student in catchment school
Students Organized in Learning Groups/Cohorts	Yes	Yes	Depends on Accommodation	No	No
Parent/ Caregiver must provide a doctor's note indicating the need for accommodations due to health related risks	No	No	Yes	No	No
Method of Instruction	Full time instruction for all students for the maximum instructional time possible within cohort limits	Primarily home study supplemented by in-class and remote learning	Parents/Care Givers work with school to develop options to continue education which may include remote learning	Online	Parent provides and supervises the entire educational program
Must meet the Learning Outcomes of the BC Curriculum	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Student Progress Evaluated and Reported by a Teacher	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

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NEXT STEPS

We understand there is uncertainty at this time and that things will be very different for awhile. We must continue to be supportive of one another and work together to best position ourselves for the upcoming school year.

Our team is working hard to help us all become familiar with the new protocols and to prepare for our students' return. While this may feel like a strange way to start the school year, a sense of normalcy will return once when we see our educational options and health and safety protocols working.

We know communication will be key throughout this year. We will continue to send regular updates to families and share information as soon as it becomes available. Your principals will be also available to answer any questions you may have as this all evolves.

Again, this is new to all of us. However, we are excited and confident in welcoming back our students.

Sincerely,



Shelley Green
Superintendent of Schools

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