



School District No. 51 (Boundary)

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August 30, 2021

Dear SD51 families,

It is hard to believe the first day of school is only one week away. I hope everyone was able to have a chance to rest and rejuvenate this summer, despite the smoke and the persistent existence of COVID-19.

The District and all our staff are looking forward to welcoming students back to the classroom. While we recognize that going back-to-school is an exciting time, we also know it may cause anxiety and concern as well. Please know SD51 is committed to ensuring safe, welcoming learning environments, and we will be prioritizing strategies to make sure students, families and staff feel supported throughout the school year.

Last week, the Ministry of Education released updated [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) to provide direction for a safe return to school. With September in mind, we are sharing [SD51's Communicable Disease Plan](#) with you, as well as giving you a brief summary of what to expect.

Continuing in September:

- Mask wearing for all K-12 staff, students in grades 4-12, and visitors, when indoors and on buses (with exceptions);
- Mask wearing for K-3 is encouraged when indoors and on buses but remains a family/caregiver choice;
- Encouraging eligible students and staff to get vaccinated;
- Daily Health Check – please use the province's [K-12 Health Check](#);
- Staying home when sick;
- Daily attendance record keeping for students, staff, and visitors;
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces once per day;
- Proper hand hygiene;
- Increased fresh air intake in all schools.

The following will return in September:

- Extra-curricular activities and sports *
- Gathering and events (e.g., assemblies) *
- Visitors and community use (e.g., parent volunteers) *
- Food Services (e.g., PAC hot lunch) *

* Please note additional regional health and safety measures may be put in place by Interior Health, which could impact these activities.

The following will NOT continue this September:

- Cohorts/Learning Groups
- Physical distancing of 2M
- Staggered start and end times for recess/lunch

It is important to note, regional and local public health orders may be in place which could require additional health and safety measures for our District, a group of schools or an individual school.

SD51 staff is meeting this week to go over guidelines and develop school specific protocols. Please expect an email from your child's school later this week to give any pertinent updates.

Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and communities. For information on vaccinations for people ages 12 and up, visit the following websites: [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) or [ImmunizeBC](#). You can register to be vaccinated [here](#), or go to [Interior Health's](#) website to find information about clinics (including pop-up clinics) in your community. Finally, you may call 1-833-838-2323 for more information as well.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's principal.

Enjoy your last week of summer and we look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna Lautard".

Anna Lautard
Superintendent of Schools