



As we return to school in September, our priority remains fulfilling our purpose and mission of enabling all learners to succeed and contribute to their full potential to the future while at the same time ensuring a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees. With that in mind, we have implemented a comprehensive suite of safety measures to help protect students and staff from the risk of COVID-19.

Stage 2: Secondary School Schedules

In Stage 2, we are trying to maximize in-class instruction for all students to the greatest extent possible within learning group limits.

Although all seven of Delta's Secondary Schools will have similar schedules, there may be some slight differences due to size and space limitations across schools. In general terms, here is what secondary schedules will look like:

- Secondary students will be at school each day and will be taking two full-time courses on a 10-week quarter schedule. This means students will still take 8 courses over the year, but only 2 courses within a quarter.
- Students can expect that course blocks will be longer than they are used to. Our schools are using 120-minute instructional blocks.
- Under the Ministry's guidelines, learning groups in secondary schools may include up to 120 individuals (students and staff) . Within Delta's secondary schools, we are trying to keep learning groups at 30-60 students as this will result in less disruption for students if the pandemic requires schools to move between other stages of the education framework.

For example, a Grade 9 student may be in a learning group with 27 other students and 3 teachers. All the students in this learning group are taking class 1 (i.e. English 9) and class 2 (i.e. Social Studies 9) together for 10 weeks. In the following quarter, students will be re-organized into new learning groups and take two new courses.

- In some cases, there may be courses that require us to go above our preferred learning group size of 60. However, we are trying to keep these situations to a minimum.

- We are working hard to ensure students get the courses they signed up for in the spring. As a result, some classes may include students from different learning groups. This is acceptable under the provincial health and safety guidelines provided physical distancing measures are in place to keep the students 2 metres apart. Where it is not possible to maintain physical distancing among students from different learning groups, we will run these classes as “hybrid courses” involving a combination of in-class instruction and remote learning. This will ensure that only half or one third of students are in the class receiving face-to-face instruction at any time to enable physical distancing.

For example, if a student’s first course is running as a “hybrid” course, they may receive in-class instruction on Monday along with half of the students in the class, and then be learning remotely on Tuesday during that block while the other half of the students receives in-class instruction. Most Grade 8 & 9 courses will be able to run within learning groups and will not run as hybrid courses. Hybrid courses are more likely in the senior grades where course offerings are more diverse, specialized and sometimes multi-grade.

- Students will be able to engage in remote learning from home during the times they do not receive in-class instruction. However, schools will also be setting up “self-directed learning spaces” at the school so students can remain at school to work on course work independently. Common spaces, such as libraries and computer labs, will be used for this purpose. They will be set up for physical distancing of students and regular cleaning as per the health and safety guidelines.
- In addition, “flexible learning time” will be built into the schedule to allow students the option of receiving additional help from their teacher. In some cases, teachers will request a student to be present for additional support during this time.
- To create this new Quarter System schedule, schools have had to completely re-build the timetable based on student course requests made last spring.
- School administrators will contact families with specific details about school schedules, including gradual entry for health and safety orientation sessions for students. Families can expect to begin hearing from their child’s school shortly and will continue to receive information on a regular basis leading up to the start of school.
- All health and safety measures prescribed by the Provincial Health Office will be in place – please see our separate [Health and Safety information sheet](#).
- All staff and secondary students will wear masks while in high traffic areas like hallways or when outside of their learning group. Exceptions will be made for students who cannot wear masks due to medical reasons.

- Students and staff who wish to wear masks in class can do so. Every student and staff member will be given masks when they return to school and will be respected for their choice to wear them.
- Access to schools will be limited to staff and students. Other visitors including parents will need to request an appointment through the school office, and will be asked to assess their personal health before entering the building.
- The Ministry's requirements state that students who are registered in a school are expected to attend school in-person unless they have health concerns.
- The school district will work with families whose students (or their family members) have medical conditions that would prevent the student from returning. Families should contact their school for further information and guidance.