

March 24, 2022

Dear Families,

I hope that you are enjoying Spring Break. I am writing today to provide a brief update on the changes to the COVID-19 related health and safety measures that were announced by Dr. Bonnie Henry prior to Spring Break. The [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) have been revised to align with these changes and will be in place for the return to school on Monday, March 28, 2022.

Space Arrangement	Schools can return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches, though should still consider strategies to create space between people.
School Gatherings and Events	<p>For events with visitors (e.g., parent/caregiver spectators):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should not exceed 50% capacity and proof of vaccination should not be implemented while the PHO Gatherings and Events Order is in place. • Can return to 100% capacity when the PHO Gatherings and Events Order is lifted (<i>expected end of day April 7, 2022</i>). <p>Schools should make every effort to avoid venue/locations that place additional requirements that could prevent a person from being able to participate.</p>
Visitor Access/Community Use	Schools can return to routine sign in/sign out practices. Schools do not need to keep a list of the date, names and contact information of visitors for communicable disease prevention purposes.
Personal Protective Equipment	The decision to wear a non-medical mask or face covering is a personal choice. A person's choice is to be supported and treated with respect.
Field Trips	Schools should make every effort to avoid venue/locations that place additional requirements that could prevent a person from being able to participate. If the trip cannot occur otherwise, schools can require participants to confirm they are able to meet additional requirements (e.g., are able to provide proof of vaccination)

Despite the lifting of certain restrictions, we encourage everyone in schools to continue to do a [daily health check](#), stay home when sick, and to practice good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to help minimize the risk of transmission of all respiratory illnesses including COVID-19. In addition, we encourage our staff and students to recognize that everyone has different comfort levels with regards to the wearing of masks and face coverings, and to be respectful of others' choices.

We are looking forward to seeing students back in school next week. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact your school principal.



Doug Sheppard
Superintendent of Schools