

 <p><b>WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOLS</b></p> <p><b>IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE HAVE THIS TRANSLATED</b></p> <p><b>RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS Prière de les faire traduire.</b></p> <p><b>重要資料 請找人為你翻譯</b></p>	<p>これはたいせつなお知らせです。 どなたかに日本語に訳してもらってください。</p> <p><b>알려드립니다 이것을 번역해 주십시오</b></p> <p><b>CHỈ DẪN QUAN TRỌNG Xin nhờ người dịch hộ</b></p> <p><b>ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਉਲੱਥਾ ਕਰਵਾਓ ।</b></p> <p><b>INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE Busque alguien que le traduzca.</b></p>	<p><b>اطلاعات مهم و سودمند لطفاً از یک نفر بخواهید که برای شما ترجمه کند</b></p> <p><b>ITO AY MAHALAGANG IMPORMASYON Isalin sa wikang tagalog kung hindi maintindihan</b></p> <p><b>يرجى ترجمة هذا معلومات هامة</b></p> <p><b>ВАЖНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ Переведите это, пожалуйста.</b></p>
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## Return to in-person instruction plan - Parent FAQs

West Vancouver Schools has developed an extensive **Return to in-class instruction plan** based on guidelines established by the Provincial Health Officer, BC Centre for Disease Control and WorkSafe BC to safeguard the health and safety of students and staff. We have highlighted pertinent information from the Return to in-class Instruction Plan into some key Frequently Asked Questions below. You will also be receiving an email from your school's Principal outlining how your child's school will operate in June.

### Is it safe for children to attend school?

Yes, schools are safe to attend. Guidelines issued by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) indicate that most children and youth are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection. COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children and youth. In BC, less than 1 percent of children and youth tested have been COVID-19 positive.

- The PHO has advised that it is safe for us to move to this stage of opening schools
- If it wasn't safe to do so, we wouldn't be opening our schools. The health and safety of staff and students is our top priority
- Since the beginning of April we have had students in our schools, these include children of Essential Service Workers (ESWs) and those who need the extra support that a school setting provides

## Frequently Asked Questions

- The science and research so far tell us that children under 19 are at low risk of transmitting COVID-19 and suspending schools only has modest impacts in minimizing the spread of the virus
- We have looked at what has worked and not worked in other jurisdictions and have considered this in our planning
- At the same time, we need to stay diligent, and that is why we are looking at a measured, gradual approach to transitioning more students back into the classroom

### How will the District ensure the health and safety of students and staff?

All schools will follow the direction of the Provincial Health Officer. These include limiting the number of children attending. Elementary schools will have staggered pick-up and drop-off times as well as recess, lunch and time outdoors and Secondary students will not be having lunch at school.

Upon arrival at school, everyone will wash and/or sanitize their hands. Opportunities for frequent handwashing will be provided. Each classroom has been supplied with hand sanitizer.

Students will be reminded about the steps they can take to keep themselves and others healthy and staff will model these behaviours throughout the school day.

### What measures are in place to ensure schools are clean?

Our custodians and facilities staff have been hard at work with our enhanced cleaning protocols as outlined by WorkSafe BC. Regular cleaning of common areas including disinfection of high contact surfaces (doorknobs, handrails, light switches) and washrooms will be cleaned twice a day and supplies replenished regularly.

Other additional measures include the disabling of water fountains and increased supply of hand sanitizer, soap, paper towels, kleenex, disinfectant sprays in all classrooms and common areas.

## How will physical distancing be implemented in schools?

Adolescent children should physically distance themselves where possible when outside the family unit or household. For younger children, maintaining physical distance is less practical and the Provincial Health Office guidelines focus on minimizing physical contact instead.

## Will students be screened when arriving at school?

Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. Staff and students who are ill will not be permitted to attend school. Provincial Health Office guidelines indicate schools do not have any role in screening students or staff for symptoms, checking temperatures or COVID-19 testing. Such activities are reserved for health care professionals

## Will children and staff wear masks?

According to the guidelines provided by the Provincial Health Officer, wearing a cloth or homemade mask, particularly by children, is not recommended. However, wearing a mask is a personal choice.

## How will I be able to drop my child off safely?

Drop off and pick up times for Elementary Schools will be staggered and strictly enforced in order to reduce congestion and facilitate physical distancing.

In our Secondary Schools, the decreased student density will significantly reduce congestion and traffic will be minimal.

More details will be coming from your school.

## What if I want to walk my child to their class or they have forgotten something?

Only staff and students will be allowed in our schools. Parents/guardians will be asked to remain outside the school building and property unless they have a pre-arranged appointment. Parents/guardians will also be asked to minimize their presence on the school property (playgrounds, fields, courts etc.) unless necessary for pick up/drop off children.

## How will textbooks and school supplies be cleaned?

According to the Provincial Health Office guidelines there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution or sharing of books or paper-based educational resources to students because of COVID-19.

Students will bring or have their own supplies (technology, pens, pencils, calculators...) that will not be shared with others.

## What happens if someone gets sick at school?

Parents and caregivers must assess their children daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory diseases before sending them to school. Do not send your child to attend school if he/she is ill.

If children experience any illness symptoms while attending school, parents/guardians will be expected to pick up their children immediately.

## Will my child be with their regular classroom teacher?

Every effort will also be made to keep students with their usual teacher(s). However, this may not be possible for every class. To align with health and safety guidelines, class sizes will be reduced to ensure physical distancing.

## Will school end earlier than June 2020?

The current school year is scheduled to proceed as regularly scheduled, which would end on June 25, 2020.

West Vancouver Schools will continue to work with the Provincial Health Officer to ensure students, parents, teachers and school staff are protected through the measured and phased approach for class instruction in schools across B.C.

## What is the schedule for in-class instruction?

Students in kindergarten to Grade 5 will be offered in-class instruction approximately two days a week.

Students in Grade 6 -12 will be offered in-class instruction approximately one day a week. School schedules and student groupings will be communicated specifically by each Principal.

## I am an essential services worker, what support is available for my child?

Children of Tier 1 and Tier 2 Essential Service Workers will have an opportunity to attend in class instruction five days per week.

Essential Service Worker families needing before/after school care are advised to contact the respective school-based private child care operators.

The school district will not be providing child care services before or after school instructional hours.

## My child has a disability/diverse abilities. How will their learning be supported?

Children with exceptional learning needs will continue to be supported in their learning. As such, they will have opportunities to attend school each day, continue learning remotely or receive a combination of both.

Please contact your child's school Principal and/or the IEP Case Manager/Learning Support Teacher for more information.

## Will there be before and after school child care available?

Before and after-school child care services are provided by private child care providers under the direction of the Ministry of Child & Family Development. Parents/guardians are advised to contact their respective school-based private child care operators for information.

## Will students be able to use playgrounds and courts?

The guidelines issued by the Provincial Health Office do not prohibit playground or playcourt use. As of June 1st, playgrounds and play courts will be open to students attending school on their designated days ONLY.

## References

- [Safety of the School Environment](#)
- [FAQ on Continuity of Learning](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control \(BCCDC\) COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#)
- [Provincial Health Office COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)
- [BC's Restart Plan dated May 6, 2020](#)
- [BC Ministry of Education Backgrounder 2 Measured approach to phasing in a return to learning in classrooms dated May 6, 2020](#)
- [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)