

Good afternoon parents and guardians,

I want to connect with all of you as we approach the end of our second week back with students. Our school staff are thrilled to have our students back in the buildings.

The last you heard directly from me was on the potential for functional school closures. We have been monitoring our staff and student attendance every day and I am pleased to see that it is steady. Our overall staff attendance has been above 90% each day, and our student attendance this week is about 84% which is improved from last week. We are monitoring our attendance rates daily and sharing information with Provincial health and education authorities.

There have been numerous questions from families about COVID testing and rules around isolation. In all these cases we look to the health authorities for their guidance, and as you have likely seen, some of the guidance has shifted this week. I want to update you on the specific guidance from Vancouver Coastal Health and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC). We also ask all our families with questions on testing and isolation to visit the BCCDC website ([HERE](#) is a link). Attached to this email is a helpful flowchart from Vancouver Coastal Health that summarizes the current guidance. Please note it is current as of today, and guidance is shifting over time.

On the broader topic of health and safety, I am pleased to share that at Tuesday's Board Meeting Chair Broady announced the following:

- Early next week we will be supplying all staff with 2 Rapid Antigen Tests to use if they become symptomatic. We are also expecting a supply of tests that will be available for students to arrive soon. These tests will ease the barriers to COVID testing for staff and students.
- The Board has requested Vancouver Coastal Health include our schools in their vaccination rollout, particularly for 5–11-year-olds. We are hopeful that vaccination clinics in our schools can increase what are our already very strong vaccination rates of young North Shore residents.
- The Federal government has announced additional funding to improve ventilation in schools. We are awaiting details of what this will mean for our community. West Vancouver has already deployed Merv-13 filters throughout the system and using HEPA filters in all classrooms without HVAC systems.
- The Board is purchasing more than 5,000 N95 masks, supplying five to each staff member. While there are various options for staff with mask wearing, this investment will ensure that all staff who want N95 masks will have them.

This past week we have collected questions for Vancouver Coastal Health through our District Parent Advisory Council on COVID related questions, and early next week we will be filming a Q and A session with Dr. Mark Lysyshyn the Deputy Medical Health Officer for Vancouver Coastal Health. As soon as this is ready, I will send an email to all of you with a link to the video.

Thank you again for your support of West Vancouver Schools.

Chris

Chris Kennedy

Superintendent of Schools / CEO

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[2022.01.20 Flow Chart_Symptoms Testing RTS Contacts.pdf](#)
