



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 62 (SOOKE)
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Dear Families:

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the summer while continuing to heed the advice of our Provincial Health Officer to keep yourselves and others safe and healthy as the global pandemic continues.

You have no doubt heard that the provincial government has released its plan for our return to school in September. Under Stage 2 of the Ministry of Education's five stages framework for K-12 education, our goal is to have 100% of students return. We will be working through scheduling and organizational details to do our best to ensure that happens, however, there may be situations where this will not be possible.

Students will be organized into learning groups, with a consistent number of staff and students. This is being done to reduce the number of people each student and staff member come in contact with. Group sizes for elementary and middle schools will have a maximum of 60 people and secondary cohorts will have a maximum of 120 people.

This approach will reduce the risk of transmission and ensure quick contact tracing. In addition, we will be introducing a suite of health and safety measures developed on guidelines from the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry and the BC Centre for Disease Control, to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Staff and students, or their parent/guardian, must also assess themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19. If any student or staff member exhibits even mild symptoms of COVID-19 they should remain at home.

The province has allocated 45.6 million dollars to assist school districts with increased cleaning of high contact surfaces as well as increasing the number of hand hygiene stations and availability of masks on request in addition to other safety measures.

To learn more about what the return to class will look like, the provincial government has created a website that I encourage you to visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>.

You can view today's announcement at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoqjWBNMBSE>.

I understand that this news may cause anxiety and worry for some. As stated, we will be sharing more information with you as we determine how these changes and measures will play out in our school district. I encourage your patience while we do this work with schools, the Ministry of Education and of course, the Provincial Health Office.

Be well,

Scott Stinson, Superintendent of Schools