

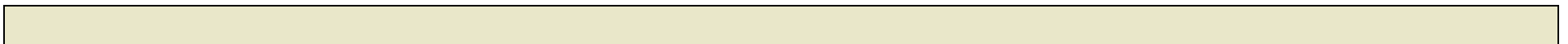


Dog Creek Elementary/Rural Secondary **2021 Return to School** COVID-19 Safety Measures, Routines & Procedures

The staff of Dog Creek Elementary Rural Secondary are excited for the 2021-2022 school year and are looking forward to welcoming students back in September. The September start-up will align with the Ministry of Education guidelines and is in accordance with the health guidelines for K-12 schools from the Provincial Health Office. To ensure a successful school year for our students the school has also developed the necessary plans to be able to shift if required and for any students who may need to self-isolate or quarantine.

The goal this September is to maximize in-class instruction to minimize learning gaps and provide the academic, social, and emotional supports essential for learning. To maintain a healthy and safe environment for students, staff, and families the school is implementing new norms and procedures and important safety and infection prevention control measures. The following document outlines a comprehensive plan that is designed to create a safe place to learn and work so our school community can thrive. It is expected that everyone accessing our facility adheres to the guidelines to the best of their ability so that we can all enjoy a happy and healthy school year.

The following is a working document that continues to be adjusted accordingly as new or updated information becomes available from the Provincial Health Office or the Ministry of Education. Part 1 (on the left side of the chart) outlines the broad safety measures that will be implemented in schools across the province. Part 2 (on the right side of the chart) outlines site specific routines and procedures that will be implemented at Big Lake School to meet the requirements of the Provincial Health Officer's return to school guidelines.



Personal Measures

BC Health Officer Recommended Return to School Guidelines

Dog Creek School Site-Based Response New Norms, Routines and Procedures

Sick or Showing Symptoms of Illness

There will be strict enforcement for all employees and students to stay home when sick.

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. If a child has any symptoms, they must NOT go to school.

Staff and other adults must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school. If staff or any adult has any symptoms, they must not enter the school.

Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household has cold, influenza, or COVID-19-like symptoms, provided the student/staff is asymptomatic. It is expected the symptomatic household member is seeking assessment by a health-care provider.

Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19-like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.

Any student, staff or other person within the school who has travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days OR was identified as a close contact

We thank you for your careful attention to the following:

- 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. See the attached **Daily Health Check** for things to look for. **Or download the app BC K-12Healthcheck.**
- Those unsure of if they or their child should self-isolate or be tested for COVID-19 should use the [BC COVID-19 K-12 Self-Check Tool](#) or contact 8-1-1.
- Any student, staff, or other person within the school who has cold, influenza, or COVID-19-like symptoms should stay home, self-isolate and be assessed by a health-care provider. **Refer to BCCDC's "When to get tested for COVID-19" or use online Self-Assessment Tool**
 - **Parents are asked to call the school in the morning if you are keeping your child at home due to illness**
 - Staff will follow normal school district procedures for calling in an absence
- If your child becomes sick at school the parent / caregiver will be called immediately for the child to be picked up as soon as possible. Your child will be placed in the medical room and/or

of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate, including children of essential service workers.

separated from others where they can be monitored and wait comfortably until they are picked up.

- Parents are asked to make sure their emergency contact numbers are up to date
- Parents who work during school hours are asked to have a back-up plan for their child in case of illness (i.e. a family friend or relative who can pick up or look after your child on short notice)
- Administration will be cautious and call parents immediately if there is any concern that your child may be sick.

- **In the event of a COVID-19 related illness at Dog Creek School:**

- Areas of exposure will undergo a deep clean to ensure safety standards are maintained.
- Public Health Staff identify and notify close contacts of a confirmed case (contact tracing).
- Please follow directions from IH.

Hand Hygiene

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness.

Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene by washing hands frequently with plain soap and water for **at least 20 seconds**.

Parents are encouraged to help their children to practice diligent hand hygiene.

To ensure diligent handwashing:

- Everyone entering the school will be required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival
- Staff will teach and reinforce handwashing practices with their students and assist younger students with hand hygiene as needed

- Regular and consistent handwashing will be a part of our daily routine (upon arrival, before and after breaks, before and after eating, before and after using playground equipment, after using the toilet, after handling common resources or supplies).
- The school will maximize classrooms with sinks for additional hand washing. Hand sanitizer will be available where there is no running water.

Personal Protective Equipment

K-12 STUDENTS: All students in Grades K-12

K to 12 are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses - both within and outside of their learning group.

For grades K-10 students, mask-wearing guidelines have been updated (see left).

- Masks will be required
- Specialty programs such as PE and music will have enhanced measures
 - High intensity physical activity should be outdoors as much as possible. Masks are not required during high-intensity activities – personal choice.
 - Students playing instruments should be spaced
 - Masks are to be used when singing

Students in K-3 are encouraged to wear a mask in school and on the bus but are not required to do so – mask wearing remains a family or care giver’s choice.

Minimizing Physical Contact & Maximizing Personal Space

Minimizing physical contact is an important infection prevention control measure.

- All adults/staff on site will wear masks
- Focus on minimizing physical contact will continue.
- Avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, handshakes)
- Teachers will utilize outdoor learning more frequently
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways.

Visitors to the School

Schools will minimize the number of adults in the school.

Dog Creek staff believe it is important to have a warm and welcoming school with open lines of communication. During this challenging time the staff will do their best to remain available and reachable for parents. Unfortunately, for safety reasons it is important that we limit visitor access to the school. We appreciate careful attention to the following protocols:

- Parents and caregivers are asked to arrange for a spot outside the school to drop-off and pickup their children.
- Parents are asked to call ahead of time where possible to make an appointment to meet with a teacher or administration so that the appropriate time and space can be arranged.
- Parents visiting the school MUST use the front entrance and report directly to the office where they will be assisted by a staff member.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors / Parents are not to bypass the office and go directly to their child's classroom. • All visitors must sign in.
Food	
<p>Schools will continue to provide food services where needed Food prepared within the school for consumption by people other than those who prepared it will follow WorkSafe BC protocols in addition to normally implemented food safety measures (e.g. FOODSAFE trained staff).</p>	<p>We will continue to run food programs to the best of our ability while adhering to the safety protocols.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast and Lunch Program- Will continue but will be moved to the classrooms for easier Social Distancing. • Fruit & Veggie Program – Fruit and veggies will be delivered to classrooms for students to access through their teacher. • Sharing & Bake Sales - Students will not share lunch items or homemade food items at this time (i.e. lunch treats, birthday treats or bake sale items).
Student Transportation	
<p>Buses will be available to transport students to and from school.</p> <p>Buses will be cleaned in accordance to recommendations set by the Centre for Disease Control.</p>	<p>Buses will be available to transport students to and from school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in grades 4-7 will wear masks on the bus • Students from the same household can share seats if space is limited • Students will be spaced out if empty seats are available.

<p>Grades 4-7 are required to wear non-medical masks on the bus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students riding the bus must register with the district • No food or drink permitted • Where possible, students will be assigned seats. • If your child is sick, they must not take the bus or go to school.
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<h2 style="margin: 0;">Environmental Measures</h2>	
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<p>BC Health Officer Recommended Return to School Guidelines</p>	<p>Dog Creek Elementary Site-Based Response New Norms, Routines and Procedures</p>
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<h3 style="margin: 0;">Cleaning & Disinfecting</h3>	
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<p>Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces.</p> <p>General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises at least once every 24 hours (including items that only a single student uses such as an individual desk).</p> <p>Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces at least twice every 24 hours (door knobs, toilet handles, shared tables, etc).</p> <p>There is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted via textbooks or other paper-based products.</p>	<p>The school will have enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols and implement procedures and routines that will help to reduce frequently touched areas and implement traffic flow patterns to maintain the effectiveness of Learning Groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning & Custodial Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff will have access to cleaning products to clean the hard surfaces in their classroom as needed. ○ Frequently touched areas will be cleaned at least twice per day. ○ The whole school will be cleaned after students have gone home.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If a child is ill at school extra measures will be implemented to deep clean the areas they were in.
<p>Limit Sharing</p>	
<p>Limit sharing and frequent touch areas where possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will limit the sharing of school supply and instructional items as much as is practical • PE equipment (when applicable) and musical instruments will be sanitized between uses

<p>Communication and Engagement</p>	
<p>BC Health Officer Recommended Return to School Guidelines</p>	<p>Dog Creek School Site-Based Response New Norms, Routines and Procedures</p>
	<p>Parent Communication</p>

Newsletters – a school newsletter will be posted once a month to our school website.

School Facebook Page – our school will run an informational Facebook page for sharing information and celebrations.

School Based Team & Inclusive Support Meetings

Meetings will continue to be scheduled. Adults involved will physically distance and mask at the meetings. Inclusive student support is part of Dog Creek Elementary school culture, plans will continue to be developed that are learner focused and growth oriented.

References and Supporting Documents:

[Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)

- Appendix A – COVID-19 Symptoms, Testing & Return to School

[K-12 Education Recovery Plan](#)

[COVID-19 K-12 Daily Self Check Tool](#)