

# Stage 2 - K-12 September 2020 Restart Plan

## School District 60: Peace River North

This plan will be available at <https://www.prn.bc.ca/resources/covid-19/>

If you have school specific questions please contact your school administrator.

For other district questions please contact:

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March 2021 updates are highlighted

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## Preamble

School District 60 looks forward to welcoming all students back to schools full time this September. The Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Education have directed us to organize our schools under the Stage 2 expectations. This will enable students to be in class up to full time. You can find more information on the Stage 2 expectations at <http://bit.ly/BCstage2exp> .

## Health & Safety

Our Health and Safety plan has been updated and is available on our COVID-19 resource page <https://www.prn.bc.ca/resources/covid-19/> . Since June we have added some updates to the plan including

- Enhanced attention to physical distancing strategies - increased awareness, plexiglass added to identified areas, floor markers to manage traffic flow
- Hand Hygiene - additional sanitization stations being installed in all locations
- Reusable masks - 2 will be provided to required staff / students. Additional supplies of masks will be distributed to sites to be made available to those who request
- Daily Health Check - staff, students, and scheduled visitors must complete a daily self-check
  - A web daily health check and app is available at <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck>
- Additional casual custodians being hired to support custodial staff for twice daily high-touch cleaning, and once daily deep cleaning
- [Updated Transportation Guidelines](#)

Each school will be working with their local Health and Safety Committee on specifics to their school prior to schools reopening.

## Mental Health

During these uncertain and challenging times it is normal to feel worried and overwhelmed. Children and teens react, in part, on what they see from the adults around them. When parents and caregivers deal with issues surrounding COVID-19 calmly and confidently, they can provide the best support for their children. Parents and

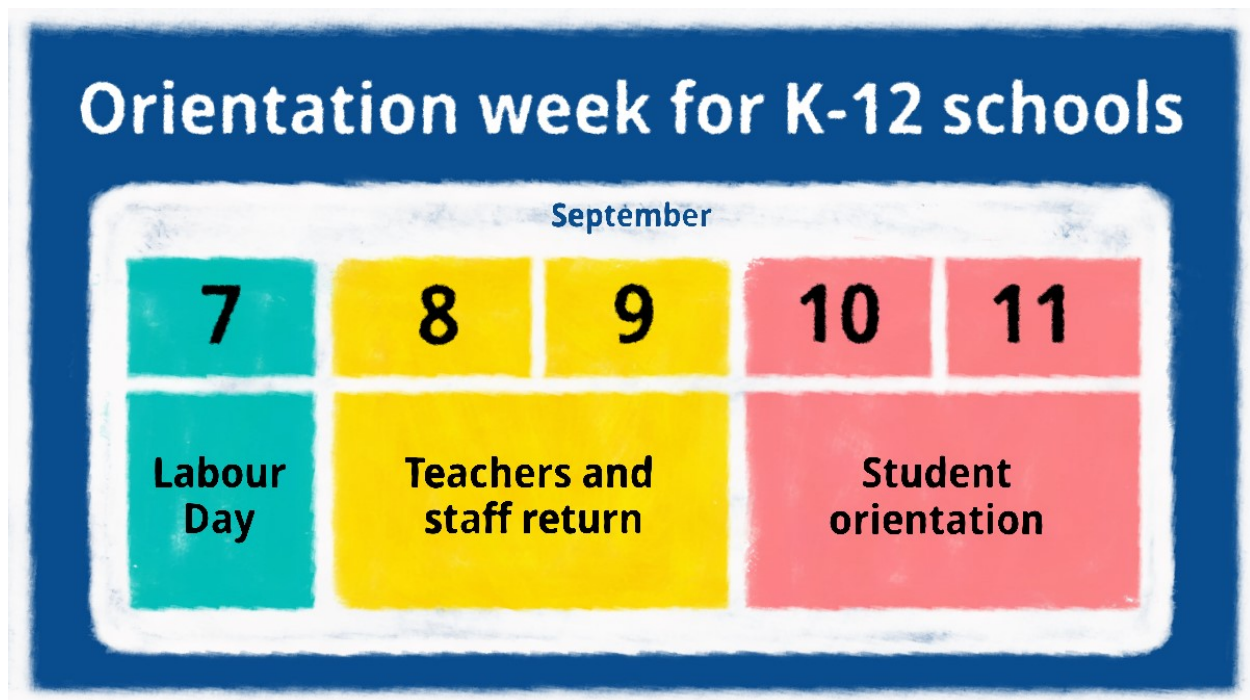
caregivers can be more reassuring to others around them, especially children, if they are better prepared. For more information please see <https://www.prn.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/05/Managing-Stress-and-Anxiety-Supporting-our-Children.pdf>

Professional development opportunities have been provided in the spring and additional sessions are being made available for staff.

## Daily Health Check

Families must perform a daily health check of students prior to attending school. Staff will perform a daily health check as well. See <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck> for the daily health check. Results of the health check for students do not need to be submitted to the school.

## Orientation Week



On September 8th and 9th staff will be training and preparing for students to return under the updated Health & Safety guidelines. Students will be welcomed back for a short day on the 10th and a full day on the 11th. Kindergarten normally starts later in the second week. Check your school's website for details on dates and times.

## Learning Groups (also known as Cohorts)

Under the Stage 2 expectations students will be organized into classes as close to regular operations as normal. The classes will also be part of a learning group (aka cohort). In Elementary and Middle schools the learning groups will be up to 60 people including the staff and students. Secondary cohorts will include up to 120 people. Learning Groups are able to work and play together while minimizing physical contact. Students and staff not in the same cohort will be expected to maintain physical distancing. In some cases in secondary schools alternate schedules or independent learning are a possibility to enable physical distancing between learning group students. Further information on school organization is available below.

## Masks in Schools

The following section is taken from

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf> (March 30 update)

### K-12 STUDENTS:

All students in Grades 4 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.

Students in Grades K to 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses, but are not required to do so - mask wearing remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students, and their choices must be respected.

Additional guidance for student mask use during specific activities in schools is detailed in the [Music Programs](#), [Physical and Health Education \(PHE\)/Outdoor Programs](#), [School Sports](#) and [Theatre, Film and Dance Programs](#) sections of this document.

Staff should utilize positive and inclusive approaches to engage students in the use of masks, and should not employ measures that are

punitive or stigmatizing in nature. See the [Supportive School Environments](#) section for more information.

Schools and school districts will have non-medical masks available for staff and students, including anyone who becomes sick while at school.

#### EXCEPTIONS FOR STAFF, STUDENTS AND VISITORS:

The guidance outlined above regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstances:

- to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
- to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- if the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
- if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
- if a person is eating or drinking;
- if a person is behind a barrier; or
- while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important.

Schools must not require a health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor's note) to confirm if staff, students or visitors cannot wear a mask.

No student should be prevented from attending or fully participating at school if they do not wear a mask. See the [Supportive School Environments](#) section for more information.

There will be an implementation timeline in early April to support students in this change.

If a student or staff member develops symptoms while at school, they must wear a mask while they are preparing to go home. [Review COVID-19 mask use information](#) from the BCCDC.

## Staff that are not part of Learning Groups

Staff who work between learning groups (eg teacher-librarians, principals, itinerant teachers, prep-teachers, district staff, etc) will be expected to follow physical distancing guidelines and the latest mask requirements. Exceptions will be made for staff who cannot wear masks for medical and/or disability related reasons.

## Visitors

Visitors and volunteers will need to schedule in advance their entry into schools. Health and Safety expectations for visitors and volunteers will include but are not limited to

- hand washing / sanitizing upon entry
- maintaining 2m distance from others
- completing and acknowledging a health self-check
- providing contact information for contact tracing
- Masks are required for all visitors to schools and administration buildings

## Pickup and Drop off of students

As outside adults need to be scheduled in advance to enter our schools, we ask that parents do not enter the school to pick up or drop off students. Please make arrangements with your school office if midday arrival/dismissal is needed for an appointment.

## Transitioning to Other Stages

Depending on the state of the pandemic the PHO with the Ministry of Education may direct us into Stage 3 or 4. We experienced stage 4 in April - May 2020, and stage 3 in

June of 2020. Our schools and teachers will be prepared to continue educational programming if a change in stage occurs. We are encouraging our middle and secondary teachers to continue with an online learning management system like the Learn60 Google Classroom to support a change in stage.

## Staggered Times

Depending on the school context there may be a need to stagger start and end times as well as lunch and recess times. Physical contact for younger students should be minimized on the playground. Middle and Secondary students and adults should continue to maintain 2m physical distance from anyone outside of their learning group while on school grounds.

## Elementary

Elementary schools already utilize a learning group model for organization. They will be organized into learning groups of 60 people. Further information will come to families from their school.

## Middle

Middle schools are working on timetables to maintain as much access to curriculum as possible while following the health and safety expectations. They will be organized into learning groups of 60 people. More information will come to families from their school.

## North Peace Secondary

At North Peace Secondary School the timetable will follow a Quarter system. A Quarter system involves students participating in two courses each day for 10 weeks. The plan will try and maximize in-person attendance along with some self-directed study in order to comply with health and safety guidelines. NPSS will be organized into learning groups of 120. Physical distancing and independent study will be strategies where there is mixing of learning groups. Efforts are being made to preserve student course selections within this model. More information will come to families from their school.



## Rural

Rural schools will be able to organize into learning groups of 60 or 120 according to their size and context. More information will come from the school.

## Sanitizing

Additional custodial time has been made available from government funding to supplement school custodial hours. High touch surfaces will be disinfected twice per day and one deep cleaning of the school at night. Many classrooms have a sink with soap available. Where a sink is not available hand sanitizer is provided. Additional hand sanitizing stations have been added to schools and spray cleaners are available for teacher use on surfaces. Students will be required to wash or sanitize their hands when they enter, before meals, and after meals.

## General Ventilation and Air Filtration

“At this time, there is no evidence that a building’s ventilation system, in good operating condition, is contributing to the spread of the virus. “

~ COVID-19 K-12 Health and Safety Guidance at

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>

SD60 has taken the following steps in regards to HVAC

- Hired a utility person as of the quarter before the pandemic that looks after all filter changers and physically visiting all the Unit ventilators on site.
- Change all of the filters on a regular schedule
- Working with an engineering firm on all of our indoor air
- Engaged HVAC contractors to work on the programing to meet and or exceed the ASHRAE standards in our classrooms.

In addition schools are encouraged to move appropriate activities outside depending on the weather.

# COVID-19 Protocols - if a student becomes ill while at school

Please see “Appendix E: What to Do if a Student or Staff Member Develops Symptoms At School” of the following link for the most up to date information that SD60 will be following -

[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID\\_public\\_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf)

## Case or Outbreak Communication

In the event of a case or outbreak at a school, Northern Health will take the lead on communications. Schools and the district will communicate based on direction from Northern Health.

## Options for Students and Families

We understand that this is a challenging time and it is important to know that families have options for their child’s education. Students in School District 60 have the following options.

1. In-person attendance at our brick and mortar schools
2. Distributed Learning programs with a Blended Kindergarten to Grade 9 model, and Courses for Grades 10-12 - see Key Learning Centre <http://www.keylearning.ca/> or call 250-261-5660 for more information
3. Homeschooling where the educational program is provided by a parent. The Key Learning Centre can support families with registration for homeschooling.

No matter the option chosen, children in British Columbia must be registered through a BC School as per the School Act. Should families choose to leave their brick and mortar school at the beginning of the school year it may be challenging to re-enter during the year depending on class sizes or learning group organization. In cases where a family and student wish to re-enter mid-year and a space is not available at their home school, an alternate space at a nearby school will be sought out by the district for the remainder of the year.

## Band

Band will continue with attention to the guidelines provided by the [British Columbia Music Educators' Association and the Coalition for Music Education in British Columbia Guidance for Music Classes](#).

## Sports

Sports are available within cohorts with minimized physical contact or with physical distancing. Inter-school sports teams and travel have been cancelled. This may be reassessed during the school year.

## Frequently Asked Questions

our COVID-19 resources page at <https://www.prn.bc.ca/resources/covid-19/> has an FAQ section which we are updating.

## Links to Resources

Province of BC - Back to School Plan

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

Province of BC - Expectations for Stages

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/safe-caring-and-orderly-schools/planning-framework/expectations>

BCCDC Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings

[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID\\_public\\_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf)

Provincial COVID-19 Health Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>

SD60 Health and Safety Plan (September 2020 Reopening)

See our COVID-19 resource page at <https://www.prn.bc.ca/resources/covid-19/> for the latest information

# APPENDIX A - Daily Health Check



## School District 60 PRN Daily Health Check

Please perform a daily health assessment of your child prior to sending them to school * This checklist does NOT need to be submitted to the school			
<b>1. Symptoms of Illness*</b>	Does your child have any of the following symptoms?	Circle One	
	Fever	Yes	No
	Chills	Yes	No
	Cough or worsening of chronic cough	Yes	No
	Shortness of breath	Yes	No
	Sore throat	Yes	No
	Runny nose / stuffy nose	Yes	No
	Loss of sense of smell or taste	Yes	No
	Headache	Yes	No
	Fatigue	Yes	No
	Diarrhea	Yes	No
	Loss of appetite	Yes	No
	Nausea and vomiting	Yes	No
	Muscle aches	Yes	No
	Conjunctivitis ( pink eye )	Yes	No
	Dizziness, confusion	Yes	No
	Abdominal pain	Yes	No
	Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes	Yes	No
<b>2. International Travel</b>	Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	Yes	No
<b>3. Confirmed Contact</b>	Are you or is anyone in your household a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	Yes	No

If you have answered "YES" to any of the questions, your child should not come to school.

If they are experiencing any symptoms of illness, contact a health care provider for further assessment. This includes 811, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.

If you answered "YES" to questions 2 or 3, use the COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool to determine if you should be tested for COVID-19.