

September 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we head into the Labour Day long weekend and continue to prepare for the safe reopening of our schools, I wanted to take a moment to share a few updates with you.

Support for Students with Severe Immune Suppression

Yesterday, in a news announcement, Minister of Education Rob Fleming referenced the North Vancouver School District and how we as a district are supporting students with immune suppression.

The school district has always provided services to students who were confined to home or hospital and expected to be away for a prolonged period of time due to illness or medical condition. Known as the *Hospital Homebound Instruction Program*, this program includes remote learning opportunities and involves school administrators, classroom teachers and/or case managers consulting with families to provide a program that best meets the healthcare and learning needs of the student.

As I have shared in previous updates, which can be found [HERE](#), according to the Provincial Health Officer and the BCCDC, *most children with compromised immune systems can return to school when safety measures are in place*. Protective self-isolation is only recommended for children who are severely immunocompromised, as determined on a case-by-case basis.

Parents/guardians of children with complex medical conditions or underlying risk factors, or parents/guardians who are immunocompromised themselves, should consult with their medical healthcare provider to determine the level of risk regarding their child's return to in-class instruction.

For families with students who are recommended not to attend school by a medical professional (doctor's note has been provided), I ask that you please contact your school principal directly to discuss the *Hospital Home Bound Instruction Program*.



For more information, please refer to the BCCDC's [Guidance for Families of Immunocompromised Children in School and Group Gatherings](#) and [COVID-19 and Children with Immune Suppression](#) documents.

Virtual Town Hall

The North Vancouver School District will be hosting a virtual town hall for all NVSD families on Wednesday, September 9th from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

I have invited Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health, to join me in answering your back-to-school questions.

The session will be recorded and posted to the school district website for those unable to watch live. Details on how to log in to the event will follow next week.

At this time, I would like to ask that you please forward your back-to-school questions to askNVSD@sd44.ca, and no later than Monday, September 7th, 4:00 PM.

Back to School Video: What Schools Look Like

We have prepared a video to give families a sense of some of the measures we have put in place to ensure our students and staff return to a safe and healthy learning environment. The video is available [HERE](#).

Ongoing Communication

In the coming days, Principals/Vice-Principals will be reaching out to all families to share school-specific back-to-school information. Should you have any questions or concerns with the information in those communications, including this update, please reach out to your school Principal. Please also continue to check the COVID-19 [Back to School FAQ](#) as updates are posted on a regular basis. For more information about the *North Vancouver School District Stage 2 Restart Plan*, please click [HERE](#).

Thank you for your patience and trust in the school district as we continue to plan to safely welcome students and staff back to school. I wish you a lovely long weekend, and I hope you can join us for our virtual town hall next week.

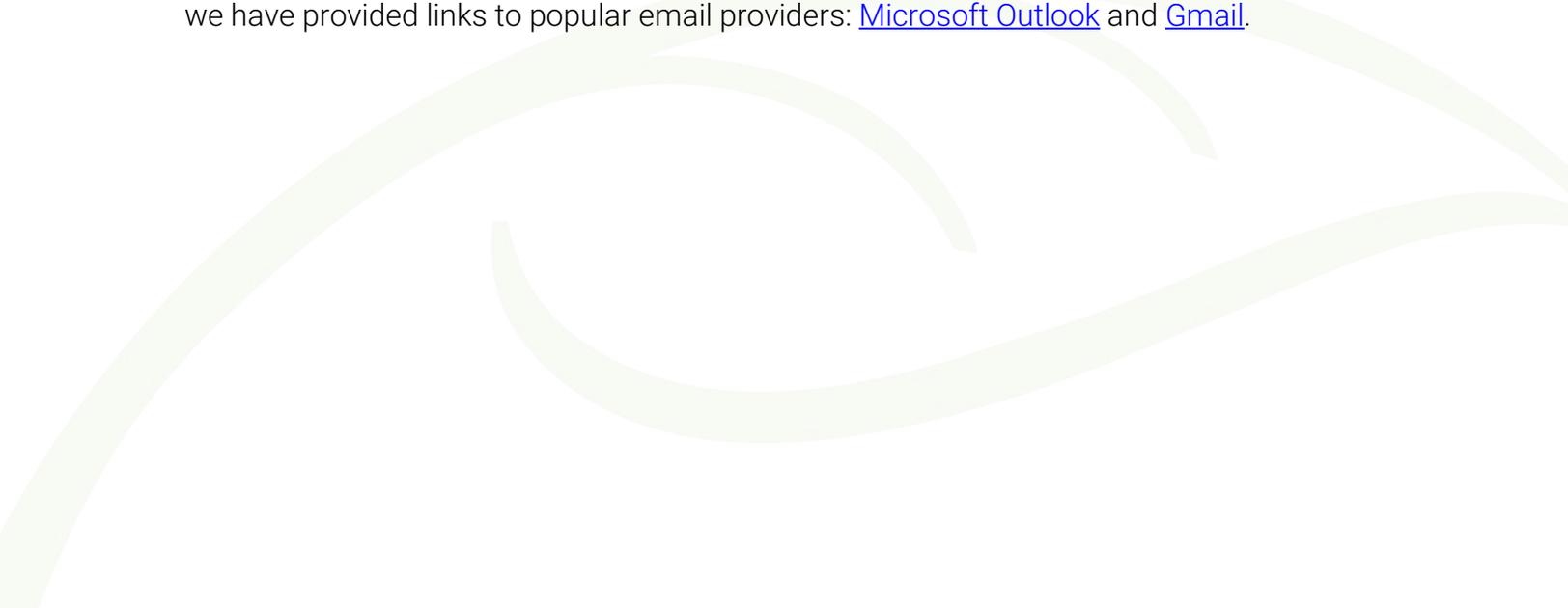
With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Pearmain".

Mark Pearmain
Superintendent of Schools

Translation Options

To view this update in a language option of your choice, please review and enable the message translation options available through your email provider. While not exhaustive, we have provided links to popular email providers: [Microsoft Outlook](#) and [Gmail](#).

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