

August 31, 2021

Dear North Vancouver School District Community,

With the start of the school year approaching, and as a follow-up to last week's [communication](#), I would like to provide you with a few more updates with respect to COVID-19 guidelines for K-12 schools, the daily health check and visitor sign-in/sign-out process, ventilation, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, safe and active travel to and from schools, school district permission form completion, and upcoming communications.

COVID-19 Guidelines for K-12 Schools

Since last week's announcement regarding the updated COVID-19 guidelines for K-12 schools and a return to full-time, in-person teaching and learning, we have updated our COVID-19 web pages:

- [COVID-19: Information and Resources](#)
- [Daily Health Check](#)
- [Management of Illness and Exposures at School](#)

These pages will be updated on an as-needed basis, and we recommend you bookmark them for your information and reference.

Next week, you can expect to receive more information from the school district regarding the application of [B.C.'s proof of vaccination requirement](#) (vaccine passport), which goes into effect September 13, 2021. While the vaccine passport requirement does not include K-12 schools, it will be required in some situations (e.g. a concert open to the public, including family members).

Furthermore, under the current K-12 COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, activities such as hot lunch programs and initiatives involving volunteers in schools are possible. While we are very much looking forward to a return to a more "near normal" school experience for all members of the school district community, we do ask for your patience and support as schools work to operationalize activities and initiatives in a measured way.

Daily Health Check and Visitor Sign-In/Sign-Out Process

Two important health and safety measures to protect students and staff and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools are completion of the [daily health check](#) and staying home when feeling sick.

The [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) outlines the requirements for the completion of a [daily health check](#) by students, staff and visitors (p. 16); staying home when feeling unwell or required to self-isolate (p. 17); and the visitor sign-in/sign-out process at all schools/sites (pp. 14-15). Information specific to the North Vancouver School District is included below.

Daily Health Check for Students/Staff

Parents/guardians should complete a [daily health check](#) to assess their children for illness before sending them to school, and staff should complete a daily health check prior to entering a school or school district site.

While collecting daily responses from students and staff confirming their completion of a daily health check is not required at this time, school districts are responsible for developing local protocols, which at the North Vancouver School District will include:

- Regular communications and reminders, at the school district and school level, on the importance of completing a daily health check and staying home when sick.
- As noted in the section below, **School District Permission Forms**, requiring parents/guardians to complete online a one-time acknowledgement of their responsibility to complete a daily health check with their children.
- Signage posted to school/site entrances that will serve as a visual reminder that a daily health check must be completed prior to coming to school/work and to stay home if feeling unwell.

Daily Health Check for Visitors and Sign-in/Sign-out for Visitors/Mobile Staff

Schools are responsible for ensuring visitors are aware of communicable disease protocols and requirements and have completed a [daily health check](#) prior to entering the school/site. Additionally, schools/sites must have a sign-in/sign-out process in place for all visitors and staff who are attending a site where they are not regularly scheduled (e.g. TTOCs, casual/replacement staff, certain itinerant teachers/specialists, maintenance and IT personnel, district staff, etc.).

To meet this requirement and ensure all personal data collected is stored within Canada (i.e. compliance with the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act), the school district has developed a digital sign-in/sign-out application for visitors and mobile staff that will be implemented across all schools/sites by September 7. Signage at school/site entrances will direct all visitors and mobile staff to report to the school/site office to complete the sign-in process. Those without a mobile device will be able to complete the process through a paper-based form available at the school/site office.

School staff who attend a site where they are scheduled to work do not need to report to the office or sign-in/sign-out, unless they are arriving after or leaving the site before their scheduled time. On these occasions, employees are asked to notify the office.

If parents/guardians have questions about the daily health check or visitor sign-in/sign-out process, please contact your school; staff are asked to contact their supervisor.

Ventilation Update

Further to the ventilation update provided in last week's [communication](#), I am pleased to share with you a few more details.

By the end of summer, the North Vancouver School District will have provided mechanical ventilation for all classrooms, including portables. Wherever possible, MERV 13 filters have been integrated into existing systems and supplied with new equipment.

As mentioned previously, we will continue to operate our HVAC systems with extended operating hours and maximized levels of outdoor air intake. The school district will also continue its practice of a daily pre- and post-day flush of the system as a further enhanced safety measure. All new major ventilation systems will be integrated into our building automation system, which will enable centralized control and continuous monitoring of performance.

Major Ventilation Upgrade Projects

The school district initiated the following major ventilation projects over the summer:

- Capilano. Ventilation installed for 5 classrooms and additional spaces.
- Eastview. Ventilation installed for 17 classrooms.
- Seymour Heights. Ventilation installed for 8 classrooms and additional spaces.

- Larson. Ventilation installed for 13 classrooms and additional spaces.
- Montroyal. Ventilation installed for 14 classrooms, library and gym.
- Queensbury. Ventilation installed for 10 classrooms.
- Sherwood Park. Ventilation installed for 9 classrooms and the Multipurpose Room.

NVSD Portable Classroom Ventilation

We have 30 instructional portables across the school district, which all have operable windows and mechanical ventilation systems providing fresh outdoor air into the units. The ventilation systems vary in design but will be one of the following:

- Gas furnace with MERV 13 filter and separate Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV), providing 100% outdoor air.
- Gas fired unit ventilator with MERV 13 filter and adjustable outdoor air damper, capable of modulating the percentage of outdoor air introduced.
- Baseboard electric heat with a separate Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV), providing 100% outdoor air.

Portable Classroom Ventilation Upgrades

- New Heat Recovery Ventilators (HRV) have been installed in 5 portable classrooms (Ross Road, Seycove and Larson).
- New Heat Recovery Ventilators (HRV) have been ordered for 2 portable classrooms (Lynn Valley and Highlands). Delivery of these units are expected August 30 and installation is expected to be completed by September 7.

Minor School Ventilation Upgrades (Completed Summer 2021)

- Medical room exhaust ventilation installed at 32 schools.
- Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV) installed in the Cleveland Multipurpose Room and Learning Centre Room.
- Exhaust fan duct modifications for the gyms at Blueridge, Braemar, Cleveland and Norgate.
- Energy Recovery Ventilator (ERV) installed in the Larson gym.

As explained above, with this project work, the school district will have provided mechanical ventilation for all classrooms, including portables. Additional school district facilities updates will be shared at a virtual Board of Education Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2021; details, including the agenda and meeting link

will be posted [HERE](#) on the Thursday afternoon preceding the meeting. Your participation in these Board of Education meetings is encouraged.

September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

In June, the federal government passed legislation to recognize September 30, 2021 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This new federal statutory holiday will be observed by federal government employees and by federally regulated workplaces every year.

The B.C. Government has since advised all provincial public sector employers that for this year, they should also recognize September 30 as a holiday for all public sector employees. As a result, public schools across the province, including those within the North Vancouver School District, will be closed on September 30, 2021, and the required hours of instruction have been reduced by five hours for the 2021/2022 school year. Click [HERE](#) to view the adjusted 2021/2022 School Calendar.

It should be noted that the B.C. Government will now begin the process of engaging with Indigenous partners and the business and labour communities to determine the most appropriate way to commemorate this day going forward.

It should also be acknowledged that the establishment of the national holiday is in response to the 80th call to action in the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*:

We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process ([Source](#), p. 13).

The North Vancouver School District would like to encourage all members of the school district community to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. More details regarding how schools will mark this day will follow, including observing Orange Shirt Day, which in the past, took place on September 30.

Safe and Active Travel and School Speed Zones

Students and families are encouraged to get to and from school in safe and active ways, such as walking, cycling or scootering. Last year, and in cooperation with our partners, ICBC, the North Vancouver RCMP, the City of North Vancouver and District of North Vancouver, we made a [VIDEO](#) about back-to-school road safety tips.

Take some time this week to plan and practice a safe route to school. By making walking or rolling to and from school part of your child's daily routine, you can be sure that they will enjoy many benefits, such as:

- Arriving at school energized and ready to learn.
- Improved mood and concentration.
- Better physical fitness and sleep.
- Becoming familiar with their neighbourhood.
- Building connections with members of the community.

Look for more information throughout the school year, either from the school district or schools directly, about safe and active travel.

Lastly, drivers are reminded to obey the posted speed limits in effect in school zones and playground zones.

School District Permission Forms

Each year, parents/guardians are asked to complete various forms for their children for the upcoming school year. The following are forms that must be completed online using our [School Cash Online system](#):

- Impromptu Walking Field Trip Informed Consent
- Personal Information Consent
- Student Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement
- Daily Health Check Acknowledgement

By end of day Tuesday, August 31, you should have received a personalized email (one for each child) from the North Vancouver School District (no-reply@sd44.ca) providing you with instructions on how to access and complete these four forms online. For families who are new to the school district for the 2021-2022 school year, you will need to create an account on School Cash Online; for all other families, you will simply need to



sign in to your existing School Cash Online account. Information on School Cash Online, including instructions on how to create an account, is available [HERE](#).

On Wednesday, September 1, the four forms noted above will be available on School Cash Online for you to complete for each of your children. By end of day Wednesday, September 1, you should have received an email directly from School Cash Online (noreply@schoolcashionline.com) indicating you have items available for “purchase.” Note: there are no costs associated with completion of these four forms; the School Cash Online system is simply a vehicle used by the school district for form completion.

If for any reason, you need assistance (e.g. you do not receive one of the aforementioned emails or cannot access your School Cash Online account), please contact your child’s school directly for assistance.

There are other paper-based permission forms that you will receive directly from your child’s school. Please ensure these forms are completed and returned to the school.

Thank you in advance for your timely attention to completing these forms.

Upcoming Communications

You can expect to receive the following communications:

- *School-level communication.* Leading up to the start of school, families can expect to receive communications from your child’s school. Your school principal and/or child’s teacher will be sharing back-to-school information that is school-specific, including information regarding start times, COVID-19 operations, and class and/or course placement.
- *District-level communication.* You can expect to receive communications from me, including regularly scheduled Superintendent’s Reports, over the coming weeks.

In closing, please take the time to enjoy the final week of summer break with your loved ones. We very much look forward to welcoming students and staff back to school next week.

With appreciation,

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

Mark Pearmain
Superintendent of Schools