

December 31, 2021

Dear North Vancouver School District Community,

On Wednesday, December 29, school districts across the province were informed that by a revised order from Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, there would be a **delayed full return to school for students in K-12 until Monday, January 10, 2022**. The delayed return is meant to give public health and school districts time to adapt to the impacts of the Omicron variant and support school districts as they implement enhanced safety measures and continuity of learning plans. A copy of the news release is available [HERE](#).

My update today is intended to provide you with information about what will happen next week; highlight the measures already in place, in addition to new enhanced measures that will be taken, to support the health and safety of students and staff and the continuance of in-person learning for the remainder of the 2021/2022 school year; and lastly, provide you with links to resources that will keep you informed as we work through this together.

Week of January 4 to 7, 2022

While a full return to school for students in K-12 has been delayed until Monday, January 10:

- All K-12 staff will return to work on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, as originally planned and scheduled.
- Students with diverse/exceptional needs or disabilities or whose parents/guardians work in healthcare or K-12 or are first responders can return sooner*.

*Families are asked to please contact their school principal directly by email to make arrangements so that pre-planning can occur.

Reinforcement of Existing Preventive Measures

When in-class learning resumes on Monday, January 10, health and safety measures already in place will be reinforced, including encouraging everyone:

- To [get fully vaccinated](#), if eligible to do so.

- To [do a daily health check](#) and stay home when feeling sick.
- To [wear a mask in all indoor areas](#), recognizing there are exceptions (as listed [HERE](#), starting on page 20).
- To practice good personal hygiene, including frequent handwashing.
- To respect the personal space of others and maximize the use of available learning spaces, including taking students and learning outside, where and when possible.

Additional Preventive Measures

Before Monday, January 10, 2022, schools must implement additional prevention measures including:

- Maximizing space between people and implementing strategies to prevent crowding during class transition and break times (e.g. staggered start/stop times, recess/lunch).
- Holding staff-only gatherings, meetings and pro-d activities, virtually.
- Holding school gatherings and events, including assemblies, virtually. If gatherings and events must be held in person, the number of people in attendance cannot exceed 50% operating capacity and spectators cannot be present.
- Limiting visitors to those who are supporting activities that are of direct benefit to student learning and well-being.
- Pausing extra-curricular sports tournaments.

Full details of these additional preventive measures are available [HERE](#), as an addendum to the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

Resource Links

Please take the time to review the following resources, which provide detailed information about the COVID-19 communicable disease guidelines for K-12 schools:

- [December 2021 Addendum – Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings \(PDF\)](#). This document is an addendum to the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#), which was developed by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the BCCDC, Indigenous rights holders and education partners including teachers, parents/guardians and school leaders to outline the principles and requirements

for maintaining safe learning environments. These guidelines build on the below-noted *BCCDC Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools*.

- [December 2021 Addendum – BCCDC Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#). This document is an addendum to the [BCCDC Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#), which was developed by the BCCDC and Ministry of Health.
- [Ministry of Education COVID-19 Safe Schools website](#)

Ongoing Communications

As we work through supporting schools as they operationalize these additional prevention measures, we acknowledge there will be questions. Keeping you informed with timely communications is a priority for the school district. You can therefore expect the following:

- *School-level communication*. Leading up to Monday, January 10, 2022, families will receive communications directly from your child's school. Your school principal and/or child's teacher will be sharing operational information that is school-specific, including information regarding start times and enhanced health and safety measures.
- *District-level communication*. You will continue to receive communications from me, including information regarding emergent issues and regularly scheduled Superintendent's Reports.

The health, safety and well-being of our students and staff are a top priority for the North Vancouver School District. We look forward to welcoming students and staff back to school soon, and we sincerely thank you for your ongoing trust, support and patience.

If you have any questions about this update, please contact your child's school directly.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Pearmain".

Mark Pearmain
Superintendent of Schools