



School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)
COVE CLIFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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We thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Səlilwətał Nation, whose unceded traditional territory North Vancouver School District and Cove Cliff Elementary reside on. We value the opportunity to learn, live and share educational experiences on this traditional territory.

Thursday, September 2, 2021

RE: Welcome Back to School!

Ha7lh Skwáyel (Good day) Cove Cliff Families,

We hope you are safe and doing well, and that families have enjoyed a beautiful summer. As a follow up from [Superintendent Mark Pearmain's communication](#) yesterday, the Cove Cliff staff are very excited to be welcoming back our students on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, BC Minister of Education, has released BC's plan for the K-12 restart in September with the full return to in-class instruction.

We acknowledge that there is excitement, anxiety, fear, happiness and all things in between. Please know that the North Vancouver School District, including the staff at Cove Cliff Elementary, recognize that everyone is returning with a different set of experiences and emotions. We would like to reassure you that the safety and well-being of our school community is our top priority, and the Public Health Office, Ministry of Education, and School District guidelines for students' safe return to school will be in place. Our goal is to support you and your children in the most safe and meaningful way. We ask for your continued patience as we work towards building Cove Cliff's wonderful school community!

Please take time to review the links to the relevant documents issued August 24.

- [BC K-12 Education Recovery Plan](#)
- [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)
- [BCCDC Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

Below are key overview items from the **updated COVID-19 guidelines for K-12 schools**:

Daily Health Check and Staying Home When Sick

To reduce the likelihood of coming to a school or school district site when ill, all students, staff and other adults (e.g., visitors) are reminded of their responsibility to complete a [daily health check](#) prior to entering the building.

There are a variety of tools available to help you complete a daily health check: Families and students can use the [K-12 Health Check app](#).

- Staff and other adults can refer to the BCCDC's [When to tested for COVID-19](#) document.

- Staff, students and families can also use the BCCDC online [Self-Assessment Tool](#), call 8-1-1 or their health care provider.

In addition, students, staff or other adults **must** stay home when ill or when required by public health to self-isolate.

The [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) outline the requirements for the completion of a daily health check by students, staff and visitors (p. 16); and staying home when feeling unwell or required to self-isolate (p. 17). Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Mask Mandate

The Provincial Health Officer mask mandate in place at the end of the 2020-21 school year will stay in place to start this school year. All K-12 staff, visitors, and students in grades 4 to 12 (including Grade 3 students who are in a Grade 3/4 classroom) will be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas of the school and on school buses. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be strongly encouraged to wear masks.

Cohorts

Cohorts/learning groups are no longer recommended by public health as a COVID-19 mitigation measure and will not be used.

Local & Regional Health Orders

Local public health orders may be put in place for entire regions or communities, including schools. For schools, the local medical health officer may issue a recommendation for an individual school, a grouping of schools, a school district, all schools within the health authority region or some combination thereof, to implement specific additional health and safety measures during times of elevated risk.

Any additional regional measures put in place by local medical health officers are likely to be similar to those in place during the 2020-21 school year, and may include:

- incorporating more activities that maximize space between people and reduce contact
- limiting visitors

Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools

Cleaning and disinfecting of schools must include general cleaning of the premises, and cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, at least once in a 24-hour period and when visibly dirty.

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities such as athletics, community programs, and fine arts programs are allowed in line with any local, regional, provincial or federal health orders in the community. More information about these programs will be provided throughout the year.

Physical Care

Although physical distancing of two metres is no longer a recommended public health measure for the K-12 setting, there are strategies that Cove Cliff will continue to use to create space

between people and to support students and staff returning to school. Some safety measures that will continue include:

- hand hygiene which will occur throughout the day including: in the class upon arrival, before eating and at the end of the day
- reminders to students and staff about respecting others personal space, and using visual supports, signage, prompts, and modelling as necessary;
- using available space to spread people out where possible;
- taking students outside more often, where and when possible; and
- managing flow of people in common areas, including hallways, to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.

Entry into the School

- Students - At the start of the day, students will meet their teacher at the classroom door, students will also be dismissed from this door.
- All doors will be locked during instructional time except for the doors for the washrooms that the students in the portable use.
- Daily Health Checks must be completed for all students and staff prior to coming to school.
- The front door will remained locked. If you need assistance, please call 604-903-3420 and someone in the office will be happy to come and assist you.

Open Now

- Water Fountains and Water Bottle Filling Stations - Please send along a water bottle to be refilled
- Gym, Music Room and Library

Meals:

- We request that everyone “pack in and out” their recess and lunch food. Please recycle and compost at home. This will minimize movement throughout the school to the garbage/recycling areas. It will also create less garbage outside.

At Cove Cliff Elementary, we continue to prioritize the social-emotional well-being of all members of our learning community. The staff at our school will focus on students feeling a sense of belonging and safety in this “new normal,” and are all looking forward to having a wonderful school year with your child(ren). Your patience and support will greatly assist the health and safety of our entire community.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns at this time. Please make sure you also read the attached newsletter.

With great gratitude and kindness,

Katherine Kee
Principal

Diane Ehling
Vice Principal

