

May 22, 2020

COVID-19 Supports for Schools and School Districts

Virtual Town Hall - K-12 Education Restart Plan

Minister Fleming, Dr. Trevor Corneil and BCSTA president Stephanie Higginson held a virtual town hall on Wednesday evening (May 20), answering questions from British Columbians about the return to school. See the replay on the [Government of British Columbia Facebook page](#).

Reminder: Stage 3 Return-to-School Instruction Plans Due May 25

School Districts:

The deadline for school districts to submit return-to-school instruction plans is May 25. Please send to educ.covid@gov.bc.ca. Please use this [template](#) to complete your school district's plan. Thank you to those who have already submitted a plan.

Independent Schools:

Independent schools that belong to the Federation of Independent School Associations (FISA) should work with their FISA association to submit restart plans to their associations and requests for exemptions through their association to the Ministry. Independent Schools that do not belong to FISA should have received independent school restart planning and exemption templates this week by email. These templates (for non-FISA schools) are due to be returned to the Ministry by the end of day on May 25. If your school has not received a template, please contact: EDUC.independentSchoolsOffice@gov.bc.ca.

Clarification on School Density Targets in Stage 3

As outlined in the [K-12 Education Restart Plan](#), school density targets have been established to ensure the number of students in the K-12 environment is manageable and aligns with public health guidance. Questions about school density targets can be referred to educ.covid@gov.bc.ca. School districts and independent schools wanting to consider modifications to school density targets due to unique local circumstances should outline their rationale in the Return-to-School Instruction Plan.

BCCDC's COVID-19 Survey

BCCDC has launched an [online survey](#) open to all British Columbians to elicit citizen experience, knowledge and actions during the COVID-19 pandemic. This survey takes about 10-15 minutes and is open until May 31. It is the first of several activities that will strengthen B.C.'s pandemic response and our understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 to date. Please share the survey link in your networks.

Supporting Materials for School Districts and Independent School Authorities

- [BCCDC COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#): Updated on May 19 with changes made to the "Stay Home when Sick" section (p. 6) and Appendix B (p. 10) in the "If Staff Develop Symptoms at Home" section.
 - [Operational Guidelines for School Districts and Independent School Authorities](#) (formerly known as the *Integrated Planning Framework*): Updated today with guidance about summer school. The Ministry welcomes feedback as this new version of the document will be refined over the coming weeks.
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Deputy Minister's Bulletin

Ministry of Education



- [Continuity of Learning – Planning Guide for Teachers](#): Updated today to align with the Operational Guidelines and provide suggested strategies for hybrid learning.
- [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Setting](#): Please review today as there are many updates made to the guidelines.
- Transit Recovery Plans – [BC Transit](#) and [Translink](#) have released recovery plans to highlight measures and procedures that will continue or be put in place to support transportation services in B.C. communities.
- [B.C.'s K-12 Education Restart Plan](#): Released on May 15 to outline the five-step approach for resuming in-class instruction.
- [WorkSafeBC K-12 Education Protocols](#): Released on May 15 to provide guidance and protocols for returning to operation for K-12 education providers.

Resources for Parents and Guardians

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on Continuity of Learning](#): Updated on May 15 to address the announcement about Stage 3 increase to in-class instruction starting June 1.
- [Keep Learning](#): Provides learning resources and supports for K-12 students. This site is being updated as new resources are available. The [French version of the website](#) was recently launched.
- [BC's Response to COVID-19 website](#): Provides up-to-date non-clinical information on COVID-19. The COVID-19 app is available on [Apple's app store](#) and the [Google Play store](#). British Columbians can also use the new provincial phone service by calling 1-888-COVID19, available seven days a week from 7:30AM to 8:00PM, with information in over 110 languages. Specific public health questions re: COVID-19 should be directed to your local health authority.

Inquiries

School/school district administrators are encouraged to contact the Ministry by email at educ.covid@gov.bc.ca or by phone at 236-478-2712 with COVID-19 related inquiries. For more information visit the [Ministry's Safe & Healthy Schools web page](#).

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