



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64 (GULF ISLANDS)

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September 10, 2020

Dear Students and Families of the Gulf Islands:

We at School District 64 (Gulf Islands) would like to warmly welcome each of you back to learning for the 2020/2021 school year. We all know that these are unique circumstances within which we return this year. Maintenance staff has worked hard to ready buildings and ensure that the provincial standards for schools are in place. Over the past couple of days, Administration and staff have been reviewing school plans and routines for how learning is organized in each school. There is a good energy in our schools and staff are looking forward to seeing students return.

Because this is a different year, there are a number of items that we would like to emphasize and draw your attention toward.

Daily Health Checks

For everyone's shared safety, it is critical that families do a daily health check before sending their children to school (or to the bus or water taxi). Please ensure that your child does not have any symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory illness. An example Daily Health Check from the BC Centre for Disease Control is included as a guide to assist you through this process.

If you have symptoms

Students that experience any symptoms of illness are to remain home and a health care provider (811, public health unit, family physician or nurse practitioner) should be contacted for further medical guidance. For the safety of other students, their families, and staff, students are to remain home until symptoms have resolved.

Pacing of the high school quarter system

Our district, like many others, has opted to organize the high school timetable around a quarter system. This means that students will be taking two courses at a time for ten weeks. The pace of learning is different than that of the regular semester system. Keeping up with studies and completing assignments in a timely manner will ensure that students do not fall behind in their studies.

District Return Plan

The most up-to-date version of district plans and protocols can be found on the SD64 Website.

Keeping in touch

It is anticipated that questions will continue to come up and you are invited to keep in touch with the district, your local school administration and teachers as we all work together to support students and their learning.

Sincerely,

Scott Benwell, Superintendent

Daily Health Check Example

The following can be used as an example of a tool that can be used for parents and caregivers to complete prior to their child coming to school. It should be adapted if used for school staff and visitors.

| Daily Health Check | | | |
|---|--|------------|----|
| 1. Symptoms of Illness* | Does your child have any of the following symptoms? | CIRCLE ONE | |
| | Fever | YES | NO |
| | Chills | YES | NO |
| | Cough or worsening of chronic cough | YES | NO |
| | Shortness of breath | YES | NO |
| | Sore throat | YES | NO |
| | Runny nose / stuffy nose | YES | NO |
| | Loss of sense of smell or taste | YES | NO |
| | Headache | YES | NO |
| | Fatigue | YES | NO |
| | Diarrhea | YES | NO |
| | Loss of appetite | YES | NO |
| | Nausea and vomiting | YES | NO |
| | Muscle aches | YES | NO |
| | Conjunctivitis (pink eye) | YES | NO |
| | Dizziness, confusion | YES | NO |
| Abdominal pain | YES | NO | |
| Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes | YES | NO | |
| 2. International Travel | Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days? | YES | NO |
| 3. Confirmed Contact | Are you or is anyone in your household a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19? | YES | NO |

*Check BCCDC's [Symptoms of COVID-19](#) regularly to ensure the list is up to date.

If you answered "YES" to any of the questions and the symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies) your child should **NOT** come to school.

If they are experiencing any symptoms of illness, contact a health-care provider for further assessment. This includes 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.

If you answered "YES" to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if you should be tested for COVID-19.

(COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings, July 29, 2020; p. 16)

