



## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64 (GULF ISLANDS)

112 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K3

T: (250) 537-5548 F: (250) 537-4200 W: [sd64.bc.ca](http://sd64.bc.ca)

December 30, 2021

Dear Gulf Islands families,

Yesterday, the Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside and Provincial Health Officer Bonnie Henry announced that the return to schools for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students in B.C. will be delayed until Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>. This adjustment is meant to provide health officials and school districts additional time to plan and implement changes to health and safety protocols to support the continuation of in-class learning as we learn more about the impacts of the Omicron variant in our communities and schools.

Although most students are expected to remain at home next week, Gulf Islands schools will be staffed and open on January 4<sup>th</sup> to provide support and supervision for children of essential workers and for students with particular needs. Please contact your school principal to discuss unique circumstances. Regular in-class instruction, as well as student transportation (busing and water taxis), will resume January 10<sup>th</sup>.

The safety of students and staff is our primary concern, and we will continue to follow the direction from public health authorities and the Ministry of Education.

This is an evolving situation. We will continue to update staff and families as information becomes available in the coming days and weeks. New and updated information will be posted on our district website at <https://sd64.bc.ca/coronavirus/>. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Scott Benwell, PhD  
Superintendent

To learn more, please visit:

COVID-19 Safe Schools

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-safe-schools>

Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Stetting (addendum):

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines-addendum.pdf>