



## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64 (GULF ISLANDS)

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

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December 30, 2021

Dear SD64 employees,

**IMPORTANT:** All SD64 staff are expected at work, as usually scheduled, for the week of January 4-7.

Yesterday, the Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside and Provincial Health Officer Bonnie Henry announced that the return to schools for most Kindergarten to Grade 12 students in B.C. will be delayed until Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>. Although most students will remain at home until then, Gulf Islands schools will be open on January 4<sup>th</sup> to provide support and supervision for children of essential workers and for students with particular needs.

A full staff return on January 4<sup>th</sup> allows school and district employees the necessary time to assess the impact of the Omicron variant on their communities, develop plans for continuity of learning and provision of supports in the event of functional school closures, consult with local partners, work with public health in understanding the impact of the Omicron variant in education and ensure updated communication plans are in place for families in the event of closures

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