



August 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

I am writing to you to provide an update regarding our Stage 2 Restart Plan. As I mentioned in my last letter, the school district will be implementing a gradual restart plan during the week of September 8. This means that students will NOT be returning to classrooms on September 8, as previously announced. The first two days of school (September 8 and 9) will be reserved for the training of staff on all updated health and safety guidelines and to prepare for the return of our students. Regular daily attendance for all grade 1-12 students will begin on September 10. Parents of our incoming kindergarten students will be provided an updated, detailed gradual start schedule directly by school principals.

Modified Stage 2 involves the full return to in-class instruction for all students for the maximum time possible within learning group limits. Therefore, following the advice of the provincial health officer, in Stage 2 students in all school districts will be organized into consistent learning groups of staff and students. Learning group size limits have been set at a maximum of 60 people for elementary and middle schools and a maximum of 120 people for secondary schools. These learning groups will help reduce the risk of transmission, enable quick contact tracing, and allow for more in-class learning time as well as increased peer interaction and support.

A learning group will consist of a group of students and staff who primarily interact with each other and who will remain together throughout the school quarter, semester or year. The group can be made up of a single class of students, multiple classes that sometimes join together for additional learning activities or a group of secondary school students with the same courses. Additional information about learning groups is available on the [Ministry of Education website](#).

### **Chilliwack Stage 2 Plan – Student Cohorts/Learning Groups:**

**Elementary schools** have been organized into cohorts/learning groups with maximums of 60 individuals inclusive of staff. Learning groups will be assigned entry and exit doors, as well as specific recess times and outdoor play area locations.

**Middle schools** have been organized into cohorts/learning groups with maximums of 60 individuals, inclusive of staff. These learning groups will function like a school within a school to reduce contact between individuals outside of the learning group. Learning groups may have staggered start times, different break times, separate entry and exit points and assigned play areas (locations) outside when physical distancing considerations are needed.

**Secondary schools** will operate under a focused calendar where students take one class at a time rather than 4-8 academic courses concurrently in a traditional semester or linear schedule. The basics of a one-block schedule are:

- A block lasts for five weeks or 22 consecutive days;
- One block is equal to one class on the semester plan; and
- Students will take four blocks per semester, similar to the semester schedule.

- There is an opportunity for applicable labs or project-based learning in the afternoon; however, teachers have the ability to schedule classes in the format they feel is most suited to the subject matter.

Learning groups may have staggered start times, different break times, separate entry and exit points and assigned areas (locations) outside when physical distancing considerations are needed.

### **Students With Immune Suppression:**

According to the Provincial Health Officer and the Centre for Disease Control, most children who are immunocompromised can return to in-class instruction where safety measures are in place. Protective self-isolation is only recommended for children who are severely immunocompromised, as determined on a case by case basis.

Parents/caregivers seeking an alternative to in-class instruction, and who do not wish to register their child in a distributed learning program or homeschooling, will be required to obtain a doctor's note indicating the need for accommodations due to health-related risks. School districts are expected to work with these families to ensure continuity of learning and supports. Accommodations could include some elements of remote learning, specific course offerings, and/or modified days. Specifics for each child need to be developed in collaboration with families and school staff.

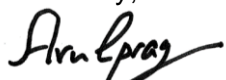
Criteria for Children with Immune Suppression based on information from the BC Children's Hospital are available on the [B.C. Centre for Disease Control](#) website.

### **Partners in Education:**

Parents/Guardians, thank you for sending your e-mails with questions regarding school startup and Stage 2 questions. We appreciate the high level of parent and guardian engagement in our learning community. We value our relationship with parents/guardians as partners, and we want to make sure there is clarity and consistency in communication between home, school and the district. We are planning to have a town hall meeting next Wednesday, September 2, so we can answer all of your question before school startup. Information regarding the meeting will be posted on our district site, as well as distributed by the District Parent Advisory Council. We look forward to connecting with you at that time.

Finally, schools will be posting their plans on their websites effective today, August 26 and will follow up with communication to families with all of the specific details regarding Stage 2. We look forward to welcoming students back to school in September and will ensure a successful start to the school year. Take care and enjoy your last week before school starts.

Sincerely,



Rohan Arul-pragasam

Interim School Superintendent