



**COAST MOUNTAINS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 82**

**frequently**  
asked questions

**STAGE 2  
RETURN TO FULL-TIME  
IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION**

**BACK TO SCHOOL  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020**

*“Coast Mountains School District: creating opportunities for learning,  
opportunities for life”*



## COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – BACK TO SCHOOL 2020 STAGE 2 - RETURN TO FULL-TIME IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION

Please note this is a living document that will be updated according to new information and questions received. Coast Mountains School District 82 (CMSD82) welcomes further questions via the [covid@cmsd.bc.ca](mailto:covid@cmsd.bc.ca) email address. Responses will be provided to all emails received.

### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

We recommend that you familiarize yourself with the [CMSD82 K-12 Education Re-Start Plan – 2020-2021 School Year](#) and your child(ren)'s School Safety Plan(s) available on the [school district's website](#).

***Will you offer an online or remote learning option for students and families who feel that school from home is the best fit for their health circumstances during the pandemic time?***

While the school district offered the remote learning option in the spring 2020, it will no longer be offered. The Learn from Home Transition Plan is being offered as an extension to Option 1, Brick & Mortar (Traditional Schooling) as shared below.

***Will the secondary school model resemble the model families experienced in June?***

We are currently in Stage 2 of the BC K-12 Education Restart Plan. Each of our secondary schools have developed their own plans, which have been tailored to suit their unique needs. All of these plans were submitted to the Ministry of Education and were approved. You can review the safety plans for all CMSD82 schools as available on the [school district's website](#). School cohort plans are referenced within the [CMSD82 K-12 Education Re-Start Plan – 2020-2021 School Year](#).

***Will my child be able to remain enrolled in their existing school if I choose the K-9 (Elementary/Middle School) Learn from Home Transition Plan?***

Yes. Families will remain enrolled in their existing school while they are in the Transition Plan. However, families must decide by end of October/beginning of November 2020 (the start of the next term) if their child will stay at their existing school. Students wishing to remain at their existing school are expected to attend full-time in-class instruction by November 6, 2020.

***Will my child be able to return to in-class instruction at any time while in the K-9 (Elementary/Middle School) Transition Plan?***

Yes. The school district will be happy to welcome your child back to school between September 21, 2020 and November 6, 2020. In order to support a smooth transition back to school, we ask that parents/guardians contact their School Principals to arrange the re-entry date.

***Will my child be able to switch between the K-9 (Elementary/Middle School) Transition Plan and in-class instruction multiple times in the year?***

No. Once a student is in the Transition Plan, they can transition back to school at any time before November 6, 2020. The decision to transition back to school will be final with no return to the Transition Plan. This is to ensure the integrity of our cohorts, help schools adhere to the provincial health and safety guidelines and to offer a consistent educational program.



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**GENERAL QUESTIONS** (continued)

*Will my child have the same teacher while in the Transition Plan, meaning will the same teacher be providing support?*

Yes, in the elementary and middle school level.

*With the Transition Plan and the hope of full return in October/November, I am assuming that hope will align with what is going on with the virus in October/November correct?*

Yes, we would follow the recommendations from the Provincial Health Officer and Ministry of Education.

*If French Immersion students choose to do Distance Learning this year, will those students still be able to enrol in French Immersion the following year?*

Yes.

*For the Transition Plan, how will instruction to students be given?*

Weekly check-ins by a teacher, one to two hours per week.

*How will the district spend new federal funding allocated by the province?*

The Ministry of Education outlined the many potential uses for the funding in their [recent news release](#). The Board of Education for School District 82 will provide direction and approve the allocation of these funds within these guidelines.

**HEALTH & SAFETY QUESTIONS**

We recommend that you familiarize yourself with the CMSD82 District COVID-19 Safety Plan – September 2020 and your child(ren)'s School Safety Plan(s) available via the [school district's website](#).

*If students in learning groups don't have to physically distance, why are there requirements for physical distance in the safety plan?*

Students and staff from different learning groups may still see each other in common areas such as buses, hallways, or libraries. In such instances, staff and students are required to practice physical distancing and use appropriate personal protection equipment such as masks.

*Will masks be required at school?*

Masks and other personal protection equipment will be required where appropriate and viable, in accordance with the direction of the Provincial Health Officer.

Schools will supply all required personal protection equipment and hygiene products necessary for staff and students to learn and interact safely.

Reference pages 4, 5 and 15: [CMSD82 District COVID-19 Safety Plan – September 2020](#)



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### HEALTH & SAFETY QUESTIONS (continued)

#### ***Why are masks not mandatory everywhere?***

Wearing non-medical masks at all times in schools is not recommended by the Public Health Officer, as there are multiple, more effective infection prevention and exposure control measures in place, such as:

- i. Ensuring students and staff stay home when they are sick or required to self-isolate, including ensuring everyone entering the school performs a daily health check;
- ii. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection;
- iii. Placing students and staff into consistent groupings of people (Learning Groups);
- iv. Adapting learning environments to maximize the use of space;
- v. Ensuring physical distance can be maintained between Learning Groups; and
- vi. Frequent hand hygiene.

These measures provide multiple layers of protection that reduce the risk of transmission. While masks are not mandatory in all environments, there is nothing preventing a student or staff member from wearing a mask at all times if they wish.

For more information reference: [BC K-12 COVID-19 Return to School Health and Safety Measures](#)

#### ***How can schools ensure that small children observe rules such as physical distancing?***

Schools have done and will continue to do excellent work in educating children about the COVID-19 pandemic. Safety plans and protocols such as learning groups/cohorts ensure that students will limit social interaction to groups well below the provincial thresholds for safe gatherings. Schools will continue to educate students about entry and exit routines that include hand hygiene and physical distance.

#### ***What will a school do if a student or a staff member shows symptoms of COVID-19 at school?***

Schools have strict protocols in place to isolate and arrange for appropriate departure of anyone who shows symptoms at school. Schools will also follow the direction of the Provincial Health Officer if anyone is diagnosed with COVID-19.

Reference page 20: [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)

#### ***How will the school district respond to possible exposure to COVID-19?***

In the event of a possible COVID-19 exposure, schools will provide notification to staff or students' families if a staff member or student becomes ill with COVID-19 at home or at school **when directed to do so by public health**. School districts do not have the authority to act in these circumstances without the direction of public health officials

Reference page 5: [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#)

#### ***What will happen if there is an outbreak or increase in cases of COVID-19 in the community?***

The five-stage BC K-12 Education Restart Plan allows for the transition between stages according to the status of the pandemic in BC. Currently we are in Stage 2. We will adjust instruction according to direction from the Provincial Health Officer, and our current plans provide for the transition to other stages in the Restart Plan.



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**HEALTH & SAFETY QUESTIONS** (continued)

***If one person in the family gets sick, is the entire family required to isolate for two weeks? How will my student stay on track if they must stay home due to illness?***

Isolation will be required according to diagnoses and direction from medical health professionals and the Provincial Health Officer. As with the requirement to stay home for any contagious illness, if a student is required to quarantine, schools will provide educational programming to ensure there is continuity of learning for the student. Families would reach out to their child's school to make arrangements.

***How do you plan to address air quality and ventilation in schools?***

In addition to physical distancing and adjusting traffic flows through markings and scheduling, we encourage staff to take students outside more often. Our cleaning protocol updates also include new cleaning procedures such as the use of electrostatic sprayers throughout the district that will ensure efficient daily cleaning of all learning spaces.

Reference pages 2 and 3: [CMSD82 District COVID-19 Safety Plan – September 2020](#)

***Should a potential COVID-19 “second wave” later this year impact students and staff, will schools be closed, as they were in the spring or will CMSD82 hold steadfast and force attendance?***

We have been and will continue to follow the direction of the Provincial Health Officer.

**LEARNER SUPPORT QUESTIONS**

***Do you have any plans for students with special needs?***

All students with special needs who enroll in a school (not homeschooling) will have access to the full range of supports typically offered in our schools although the delivery method may look different. All students with special needs with a Ministry designation will continue to have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) with personalized goals. The IEP will be in place across stages acknowledging that support strategies may vary or be adjusted for different stages and environments. Continuity of access to learning will continue. We will ensure ongoing communication and collaboration with students and families to implement plans and monitor the success of student learning goals. Parents/guardians and caregivers should communicate directly with their school team.

***What options are available for immunocompromised students/families/caregivers?***

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. We will 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 will be developed in collaboration with families and school staff.

Reference pages 21 and 40: [Operational Guidelines for School District and Independent School Authorities](#)