



Aberdeen Hall
Safe Return to Campus (SRtC) Plan

External Version

STAGE 2

March 2021

(Updated March 31, 2021)

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Safe Return to Campus (SRtC) Plan Rationale:

The Safe Return to Campus Plan uses the best practices models of school return procedures, both nationally and internationally, to plan for and implement the safest possible return for students and employees to on-campus learning during **Stage 2** of school re-opening. All plans will be based on the guidelines and information provided by the following documents, and will be checked against them to ensure complete compliance:

- [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)
- [COVID 19: Public Health & Safety Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#)
- [COVID 19: Public Health & Safety Guidance for Child Care Settings](#)
- [Worksafe BC Returning to Safe Operations & COVID-19 Safety Plan \(K-12\)](#)

Note that the [Operational Guidelines for School Districts and Independent School Authorities](#) also serves as an overarching guiding document.

The Safe Return to Campus (SRtC) Plan is intended for use in conjunction with the following:

- [Exposure Control Plan - STAGE 2 - Pandemic Influenza](#)
- WorksafeBC COVID-19 Safety Plan

The Safe Return to Campus (SRtC) Plan includes the Health and Safety Plan required by the Ministry of Education prior to return to school. This document, along with the WorksafeBC COVID-19 Safety Plan, will be posted throughout the school AND on Aberdeen Hall website.

Please see [Preschool Safe Return to School FAQ- 2021 STAGE 2](#) for considerations specific to **child care settings** derived from the [BCCDC Public Health Guidance for Childcare Setting](#) document.

Background

The guidelines and procedures outlined in this document are for the transition from Stage 3 of the “Education Stages of K-12 Students” to Stage 2.

STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5
Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: N/A Middle: N/A Secondary: N/A 	Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 60 Middle: 60 Secondary: 120 	Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 30 Middle: 30 Secondary: 60 	Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 30 Middle: 30 Secondary: 30 	Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 0 Middle: 0 Secondary: 0
DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable 	DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable 	DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% for all schools 	DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% for all schools 	DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0% for all schools
IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Full-time all students, all grades	IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Full-time instruction for all students for the maximum instructional time possible within cohort limits. Self-directed learning supplements in-class instruction, if required.	IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Full-time instruction for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children of essential service workers students with disabilities/diverse abilities students who require additional supports In-class instruction for all other students for the maximum time possible within cohort limits. Self-directed and remote learning supplements in-class instruction.	IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Full-time instruction for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children of essential service workers students with disabilities/diverse abilities students who require additional supports Remote learning for all other students	IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Suspend in-class for all students

General Information

How long will this stage last?

Based on the current information provided by the Ministry of Education, the Provincial Health Officer, and the Premier, Aberdeen Hall will remain in Stage 2 until further designations are made in BC, if applicable.

Why is the school continuing with on-campus schooling?

The school is continuing with on-campus schooling with the four guiding principles provided in BC's Education Restart Plan, **Stage 2**. These guiding principles are:

- 1) Ensure a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees
- 2) Provide the services needed to support children of our essential service workers
- 3) Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance

- 4) Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students

Attending On-campus Schooling

In-Class Instruction

In-class instruction provides students with peer engagement, supports social and emotional development and decreases feelings of isolation.

School also provides many students access to programs and services they can't get at home and is integral to their overall health.

Like every year, students who are registered in "bricks and mortar" schools are expected to attend school in-person, unless they are sick.

- Schools and teachers at the elementary and middle school grades will not be providing daily online options for students
- Students in secondary (high) school courses may be required to complete some learning online, only if in-person instruction is not possible given learning group sizes

Please note that, according to the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control, most children who are immunocompromised can return to in-class instruction when 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 will be required to obtain a doctor's note indicating the need for accommodations due to health-related risks.

Learning Groups

A learning group is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout the school quarter, semester or year and who primarily interact with each other. Learning groups were recommended by the Provincial Health Officer to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19. The school will keep up-to-date lists of all members of a learning group and others who work with that learning group.

Learning groups are smallest in elementary and middle schools because it is more challenging for younger students to maintain physical distance.

Students in secondary school are better able to minimize physical contact, practice hand hygiene and recognize if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

- Preschool :30
- Elementary: 60

- Middle: 60
- Secondary (High): 120

At Aberdeen Hall, our learning groups correspond to student grades, with the exception of the High School, wherein two grades are in one learning group. In general, the homeroom teachers for each grade are included in the learning group, as well as some specialist teachers and/or learning support teachers. There are some instances where students will be taught by (and will interact with) an adult outside of their learning group, in which case employees will follow the protocols outlined in the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)

Learning Group Name
Preschool A
Preschool B
Kindergarten
Grade 1
Grade 2
Grade 3A
Grade 3B
Grade 4
Grade 5
Grade 6
Grade 7
Grade 8
Grade 9/10
Grade 11/12

See the Physical Distancing section for more information on interactions in and between learning groups.

When my child attends school what can I continue to do to ensure we safeguard the school community?

You are REQUIRED to assess your child's health *daily* for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease. Parents/caregivers and students can utilize the provincial K-12 Health Check app for daily assessment of symptoms.

<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s2>

All students and employees who:

- have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory diseases, OR
- have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days, OR
- were identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak
- A person who has been tested for COVID-19 while they are waiting for the test results.

must stay home, seek assessment from a healthcare provider and self-isolate as they await results. Once results and guidance from a health care provider are received (indicating it is safe to return to school), and symptoms have resolved for 24 hours, the student or employee may return to school.

This includes children of essential service workers.

Furthermore, students and employees who experience seasonal allergies or COVID-19 -like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health care provider.

Students and employees may attend school if a member of their household has cold, influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms, provided they are asymptomatic. It is expected the symptomatic household member is seeking assessment by a health care provider.

If a student is confirmed to have COVID-19, public health will do an investigation to confirm if any students or employees have been in close contact with that person, and need to self isolate. Public health will inform the school and Head of School if there are close contacts of a confirmed case within a learning group or school. Additionally, schools will provide learning support to students required to self-isolate. Together, schools and public health officials will determine if suspending in-class learning is necessary.

Is transportation still available?

Bussing will be available.

The following guidelines have been implemented for student transportation on Aberdeen Hall buses:

- Buses used for transporting students will be cleaned and disinfected according to the guidance provided by BCCDC's Guidelines on Cleaning and Disinfectants. Additional guidance is available from Transport Canada.
- Bus drivers will clean their hands often, including before and after completing trips. They are encouraged to regularly use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol during trips.
- Bus drivers will assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school or worksite.
- Bus drivers are required to wear a non-medical mask, a face covering or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) when they cannot maintain physical distance or be behind a physical barrier in the course of their duties. Schools will have non-medical masks.
- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. If a child has any symptoms, they must not take the bus or go to school.
- Guest passengers on the bus will not be permitted, only those assigned to the route may ride.
- Students may not consume food or beverages while riding the bus, with the exception of a personal water bottle. Lunch and snacks must remain in the students backpack or lunch kit.
- Students should clean their hands before they leave home to take the bus, when they leave school prior to taking the bus, and when they get home.

- Where possible, bus line up areas should be set up to prevent crowding, and allow for physical distancing of 2m. Schools will attempt to provide support for students who are not able to physically distance.
- **Students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are required to wear non-medical masks when they are on the bus. Exceptions will be made for students who cannot wear masks for medical reasons.**
- **Students in Grades K to 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors in school and on school buses, but are not required to do so - mask wearing remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for students and their choices must be respected.**
- Liquid Sanitization pumps will be available for use on all school buses.
- Assigned seating will be arranged and implemented. Aberdeen Hall will keep up-to-date passenger and seating arrangement lists to share with public health should contact tracing need to occur. The seating arrangement can be altered whenever necessary to support student health and safety (e.g. accommodating children with a physical disability, responding to behavioural issues, etc.)
- Students will have their own bench (unless sharing with a member of their household) and sit separated side to side and front to back.

Private vehicle use and active transportation (e.g. biking, walking, etc.) are encouraged where possible to decrease transportation density.

How will student mental health and well-being be attended to during this time?

Students will continue to have access to their homeroom advisors and teachers as a first level of support. School administration, resource teachers, and our school counsellor will also be available to support students in need. Students will be instructed on and reminded of these support systems at school along with how to access them.

Health and Safety

How will you deal with onset of illness during the school day?

If anyone on campus develops any infectious symptoms, respiratory or otherwise, Aberdeen Hall will complete the following steps, as directed by the BC Ministry of Health and BC Centre for Disease Control. Updates to this process will match Ministry updates:

- 1) Person will immediately be isolated in the designated room for their building until they leave the school
- 2) Parent or emergency contact will be contacted immediately and pick-up arranged
- 3) Custodians will be contacted to immediately clean and disinfect any areas used by the ill person (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas)
- 4) Where possible, 2 metres of distance will be maintained from the ill person
- 5) People will be given a mask and tissues to cover their coughs or sneezes. Used tissues will be thrown away as soon as possible and hand hygiene will be performed as much as possible by both ill person and designated staff member
- 6) If it is a child, they will be supervised by a designated staff member who will be wearing appropriate protective equipment (mask, eye protection and gloves) or will use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth. The designated staff member will avoid touching the ill person's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva) and diligent hand hygiene will be practiced regardless of whether contact is made with fluids or not
- 7) The door to the designated isolation room will remain closed as much as possible to prevent excess air contamination
- 8) Once the ill person has left the designated isolation room, the room will be closed off for 2 hours to allow coughed droplets to settle, at which time it will be cleaned and disinfected by a custodian
- 9) Employee will document parent pickup and symptoms on MySchool and inform the Division Leader

Parents or caregivers must keep their child at home until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases, AND for 24 hours after their symptoms have resolved.

Any student or employee who has, or a member of their household has, a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 must notify the school immediately so that we can follow Interior Health's protocols for notifying our community.

What if there is a confirmed COVID-19 case at school?

If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, and were potentially infectious while they were at school:

Interior Health will perform an investigation to determine if there were any potential close contacts within the school.

More information about contract tracing can be found [here](#).

If determined that there are close contacts at school Interior Health will notify the school administrators and request class and bus lists to assist with contact tracing and provide guidance on what steps should be taken.

Interior Health will notify by phone or letter (or ask the school to) everyone who they determine may have been exposed, including if any follow-up actions are recommended. Interior Health will determine close contacts and will advise who is required to self-isolate.

Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household develops new symptoms of illness, provided the student/staff has no symptoms themselves. If the household member tests positive for COVID-19, Interior Health will advise the asymptomatic student/staff on self-isolation and when they may return to school. Most illness experienced in B.C. is not COVID-19 even if the symptoms are similar.

Staff and students may return to school based on their symptoms and if they feel well enough. If a COVID test is recommended a person must stay home until they receive their test result. If the test is negative they can return to school when symptoms improve and they feel well enough. If the test is positive, they must follow direction from Interior Health about when they can return to school.

What is the protocol if a student or employee has seasonal allergies?

Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19 like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.

Who will be contacted if a confirmed COVID-19 case is discovered in a student or employee (or in their household) who has attended on-campus schooling?

Aberdeen Hall will work directly with Interior Health and strictly follow their protocols should a confirmed COVID-19 case be discovered in a student or employee (or in their household) who has attended on-campus schooling.

Interior Health Phone Number: # 250-469-7070

School Contact Nurse: Nicole Millard # 250-980-4807

Any student or employee who has, or a member of their household has, a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 must notify the school immediately so that we can follow Interior Health's protocols for notifying our community.

How will physical distancing and minimizing physical contact be managed?

In Stage 2, members of the same learning group must minimize physical contact. This means that students and employees who are designated as part of a learning group do not need to maintain 2m distance from each other, rather they need to minimize physical contact, which they will be instructed on and reminded of regularly.

During break times (e.g. recess and lunch), students may want to socialize with peers in different learning groups. There are different considerations for elementary and middle/secondary students when socializing outside of their learning group.

Physical distancing refers to a range of measures aimed at reducing close contact with others. Physical distancing is used as a prevention measure because COVID-19 tends to spread through prolonged, close (face-to-face) contact.

- Within cohorts, physical distancing should include avoiding physical contact, minimizing close, prolonged, face-to-face interactions, and spreading out as much as possible within the space available.
- Outside of cohorts, practicing physical distancing should include avoiding physical contact and close, prolonged face-to-face interactions, spreading out as much as possible within the space available, and ensuring there is 1-2 meters of space available between people.
- Spaces where members of different cohorts interact should be sufficiently large, and/or should have limits on the number of people so that 1-2 meters of space is available between people.
- Within and outside of cohorts, there should be no crowding.

Staff and other adults should seek to reduce the number of close, face-to-face interactions with each other at all times, even if wearing a mask. This includes break times and in meetings.

Elementary students: When interacting with peers outside of their learning group, students should:

- minimize physical contact when outdoors;
- maintain physical distance (2m) when indoors. If a student is unable to physically distance, the student should socialize within their learning group or where they can be supported to physically distance.

Middle/secondary (high) students: When interacting with peers outside of their learning group, students should maintain physical distance (2m) and wear a mask if possible. Middle and secondary (high) school students capable of consistently

maintaining physical distance, when it is required, should be expected to do so. If a student is unable to physically distance independently, the student should socialize within their learning group or where they can be supported to physically distance.

When employees, including specialist, TOC and learning support teachers, are interacting with a learning group they are not a part of, they will follow the protocols outlined in the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

Desks and tables will be configured to promote physical distancing guidelines of 2 metres between persons if students are not in their learning group.

Additionally, K-5 and Grade 6-12 schedules have been created to ensure that door greeters are in place each day (until procedures are learned and practiced), breaks and outdoor times are planned and movement across schools is minimized and planned for. This will help manage interactions between learning groups.

Assemblies and other school-wide events will be cancelled or will be held virtually to avoid a large number of people gathered in one space.

Gatherings or events at the school, including social gatherings of students and/or staff, must comply with the [PHO Order for Gatherings and Events](#).

Behaviour Education

Students and employees will be educated on and reminded of physical distancing practices, including but not limited to:

- refraining from handshakes and hugs
- younger students (PreK - Grade 3, Grade 4 & 5) should be supported to stay in their learning group and to minimize physical contact at all times
- older students (Grade 4 & 5 introduced to this, Grade 6 - 12) and adults will be supported to minimize physical contact at all times, seek to maintain 2m physical distance whenever possible within their learning group and when interacting with others outside of their learning group

People Movement

Movement of groups of students around and between buildings and other campus locations will be planned and managed. Directional indicators managing flow of people will be placed on entrances and exits and floors and walls around each building and on relevant outdoor areas on campus.

Entrances and exits and washrooms, where applicable, will be designated for specific learning group and employee use.

Access to Campus

Only Aberdeen Hall employees, students, and approved visitors will be allowed in the school. Visitors will be prioritized to those supporting activities that benefit student learning and well-being. Visitors will be made aware of health and safety protocols and requirements prior to entering the school and their contact information will be taken, including the requirement that visitors wear masks when entering any building.

This means that in Stage 2 schooling, parents may not enter schools unless they have made an appointment. Supplies drop offs (lunches, instruments, etc.) during the day should be arranged by calling Reception.

How will the campus look different?

Outdoor classrooms will be installed to support the increased use of outdoor space during Stage 2 schooling (during warmer months).

Drinking fountains will be closed except for the use of water bottle filling.

Hand dryers in washrooms will not be permitted to be used. Only paper towels will be provided for the purpose of drying hands.

Playgrounds

Our playgrounds will be open. According to Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings, there is no current evidence of COVID-19 transmission in playground environments. Playgrounds are a safe environment.

The following measures will be taken when using playgrounds:

- Ensure appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play
- Attempt to minimize direct contact between students

What is the safest way to drop off my child?

Drop-off /Pick-up Times, Locations and Procedures

Kindergarten - Grade 5:

Parents will park in the parking lot and walk up the sidewalk following the same pattern that traffic would in the roundabout. Walking towards the Junior School, passing the Early Learning Centre on the right, leaving by continuing to walk around the roundabout, with the recycling bins on the right hand side. Directional arrows will help guide this process.

All students will be greeted by a teacher or member of administration to guide them into the building (**no parents or caregivers may enter the building**). If a child has difficulty separating, staff can reassure them verbally; however, will not be able to physically comfort them in keeping with safety protocols. **Please move swiftly and quickly through the roundabout during drop-off and pick-up, avoiding social conversations.**

Drop-off & Pick-up Times	Cohort	Location
Drop-off: 8:00am - 8:15am Departure: 3:30pm	All bus students	Junior School Roundabout
Drop-off: 8:00am - 8:20am	Kindergarten	Junior School Roundabout to the ELC Bottom Entrance (down the fire lane, across from the playground)
	Kindergarten C	Junior School Roundabout to the Junior School Upper Back Door
	Grade 1, 2 & 5	Junior School Roundabout to Junior School Main Entrance
	Grades 3 & 4	Junior School Roundabout to Junior School Side Entrance (near the Senior School)
Pick-up: 3:15pm - 3:30pm	Kindergarten (A,B,C)	Firelane, next to the ELC
	Grades 1 & 2	Wood Chips by the Junior School Main Entrance
	Grade 3	Junior School Sports Court
	Grades 4 & 5	Field

If a child has a medical appointment that is scheduled during school hours please contact JS Front Reception and email their homeroom teacher.

Grade 6-12:

Parents will either drop off their child in the Senior School roundabout or will park in the Senior School lot and their child will walk into the school to their designated entrances/exits.

Middle School Entrance/Exit is the top floor of the Hanlon Senior School and the High School Entrance/Exit is the second floor of the Holzhey Hall.

Parents are asked not to congregate in the parking areas so that flow of people physical distancing requirements are maintained.

What are the screening measures that will be in place?

You are REQUIRED to assess your child's health *daily* for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease. Parents/caregivers and students can utilize the provincial K-12 Health Check app for daily assessment of symptoms.

<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s2>

Employees must complete a daily health check before they enter the school.

Administrators are required to verify that staff and other adult health checks have been completed before they enter the school.

What personal hygiene measures will be in place for students and employees?

Hand washing will take place for both students and employees:

- after entering and before departing the school buildings
- before and after snacks and meals
- before and after outdoor play
- after using the washroom
- after using a tissue
- after coughing or sneezing
- when hands are visibly dirty
- at least once per two hours, managed by teachers

Additionally, teachers will wash their hands:

- before and after applying any First Aid to students or self
- after contact with bodily fluids (runny noses, spit, vomit, blood)
- after cleaning tasks
- after handling garbage
- after removing gloves

Employees and students are expected to follow cough/sneeze etiquette, which is a combination of measures that minimizes the transmission of diseases via droplet or airborne routes. Respiratory etiquette can be found here.

How will the school clean the rooms to ensure the environment is safe?

Cleaning Standards & Routines

This summer a thorough cleaning and disinfecting has been undertaken of every classroom, hallway, and all common spaces in all buildings.

Signage has also been placed around the school reminding students and employees of enhanced cleaning and hygiene standards and how to follow them.

During the school day, teachers may assist with the cleaning routines inside their classroom, in addition to the enhanced cleanings provided by custodians. These may include:

- Cleaning tabletops and chairs before and after snacks and lunch
- Reminding students and assisting them in regular cleaning of their laptops (keyboard covers), pens and pencils, hands, etc..
- Refraining from or limiting the use of shared equipment such as class iMacs, 3-D printers, projection equipment, etc.

Enhanced cleaning standards will meet or exceed the requirements of Worksafe BC and the guidelines for school settings put forth by the Ministry of Health.

Specifically:

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises at least once in a 24-hour period. This includes items that only a single student uses, like an individual desk.
- In addition to the cleaning and disinfecting of the premises, cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces at least twice in 24 hours, including at least once during regular school hours.

How will the school ventilate and increase air circulation?

At this time, there is no evidence that a building's ventilation system, in good operating condition, is contributing to the spread of the virus.

During the school year the school will maintain HVAC systems for proper operation and ensure that the filters are upgraded to a minimum MERV 13 filter or higher.

In order to enhance school ventilation the school will:

- Move activities outdoor when possible
- Create outdoor classrooms when weather permits

What can my child bring to school?

Uniform, Materials & Personal Belongings

For K - 5:

Personal belongings required:

- Backpack
- Jacket
- Outdoor Runners
- Black Indoor Shoes
- Water bottle
- Lunch kit
- PE uniform (Grades 2-5; no PE uniform required in grades K-1)
- Required school supplies (Grades 4 & 5 only; individual supplies are provided in grades K-3)

On Mondays, students will wear their number 1 uniform; on Tuesday - Friday, students can choose to wear their number 1 or number 2 uniform.

Please do not send anything else to school with your child unless it is specifically requested by their homeroom teacher.

Personal items should be labelled with the student's name to discourage accidental sharing.

For 6-12:

Necessary items only such as a backpack, jacket, school supplies, water bottle, lunch kit and PE kit are to be brought to school. Students should not share personal items including electronic devices and pens/pencils.

Students can continue to use their lockers as they will be in the same learning group as the students around them and it is better for personal items to be stored in a locker than to be stored in classrooms or carried throughout the school.

Students will wear their #1 uniform on Mondays and their #1 or #2 uniforms Tuesday-Friday.

How will snacks, lunch and daily breaks be handled?

Lunch, Snacks, Daily Breaks

There will be no food service provided at the school. At drop-off, parents must provide students with all food required for the day. In the Junior School and Middle School, lunches will be eaten in the classrooms. In the High School, lunches will be eaten in designated common areas. No sharing of food is permitted.

There will be no microwaves available for warming-up food.

Students are not permitted to share their food items or bring in homemade food items (e.g. birthday treats).

Divisional lunch times and/or locations will be staggered and students will stay in their learning group or will be directed to distance from each other if not staying in their learning group.

What about Personal Protective Equipment?

Masks do not prevent the spread of COVID-19 on their own. They should not be used in place of physical distancing or any other measures. Masks can be safely worn by school-aged children.

All K-12 staff are required to wear a mask in schools both within and outside of their learning group except when eating or drinking or outdoors.

K-3 students are encouraged to wear a mask indoors in school, but are not required to do so - mask wearing remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students, and their choices must be respected.

Students in Grade 4 and 5, Middle and High School and all employees who work are required to wear a non-medical mask indoors at school.

EXCEPTIONS FOR STAFF, STUDENTS AND VISITORS: The guidance outlined above regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstances:

- to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
- to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- if the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
- if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
- if a person is eating or drinking;
- if a person is behind a barrier; or
- while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important.
- eating or drinking
- outdoors

Schools must not require a health care provided note to confirm if staff, students or visitors cannot wear a mask.

No student should be prevented from attending or fully participating at school if they do not wear a mask.

Information about COVID related mask use can be found on the [BCCDC website](#) and the [Government of Canada website](#).

Learning Formats and Scheduling

How will on-campus learning be delivered?

On-campus learning will be delivered in students' learning groups across the entire school, with the exception of some specialty programming in the High School only.

Junior School:

Our daily schedule will be similar to last year. Classes will be approximately 50 minutes and students will have 6 learning blocks each day with lunch and three recesses.

In Stage 2, our students will experience a classroom environment that is very similar to “normal” school. We are fortunate to have small class sizes, which allow us to form grade level cohorts. **All of our students will have the ability to attend regular classes with their grade level peers.**

On-campus learning will appear much like it has in previous years to provide normalcy and programming excellence; however, a number of protocols have been developed to ease the transition should a change to other stages of schooling be necessary:

- the use of Google Classroom by teachers, students and parents from the outset of school.
- homeroom teachers will be integrating Google Classroom into their on-site lessons to aid in the continued development and familiarity of the program for our students.
- ADS&T classes will primarily focus on the skills students need to efficiently navigate Google Classroom.

Although there will not be full online programming (while in Stage 2), it will support learners who are absent due to illness, and will help ease the transition to other

stages (if necessary) as students, parents and teachers will be familiar with the process.

Middle School:

Our daily schedule will be similar to last year. Classes will be approximately 65 minutes long, and students will take 5 blocks a day, with lunch and two recesses. Students' courses will generally be year-long (linear) with the exception of some specialty programming such as art/drama/ADST.

In Stage 2, our students will experience a classroom environment that is very similar to "normal" school. We are fortunate to have small class sizes, which allow us to form grade level cohorts. **All of our students will have the ability to attend regular classes with their grade level peers.**

Although on-campus learning will appear much like it has in previous years to provide normalcy and programming excellence, a number of protocols have been developed to ease the transition should a change to other stages of schooling be necessary. An example of one of these changes is:

- the use of MySchool and Google Classroom by teachers, students and parents from the outset of school using a specific process whereby teachers upload lesson plans for each day's class that include links to any materials that can/should be accessed online.
- although this process is not a full online program (while in Stage 2), it will support learners who are absent due to illness, and will help ease the transition to other stages (if necessary) as students, parents and teachers will be familiar with the process.
- this process has been simplified for ease of use of students, teachers and parents.

High School:

Our daily schedule will be similar to last year. Classes will be approximately 65 minutes long, and students will take 5 blocks a day. Grade 10-12 students will have one double block per day.

In Stage 2, our students will experience a classroom environment that is very similar to "normal" school. We are fortunate to have small class sizes, which allow us to form grade level cohorts. **All of our students will have the ability to attend regular classes with their grade level peers.**

Please see the detailed [newsletter here](#) that explains the changes made to courses, scheduling and on-campus learning in the High School. Some of the changes include, but are not limited to:

- The use of MySchool and Google Classroom as described in the Middle School section
- Reducing the number of full-year courses taught in Grade 9
- Changing to a sixmester timetable and course system in Grades 10-12

Art/ADST Programs:

Art and ADST classes will continue in students' learning groups in Junior School and Middle School. If classes occur with students from multiple learning groups (High School only), students will maintain a 2m distance from those outside of their learning groups. When possible, equipment will be designated for specific learning groups and if shared, will be cleaned and disinfected according to guidelines provided. Students and employees will be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after participating in classes.

Music Programs:

All music classes will continue in students' learning groups in Junior School and Middle School. If classes occur with students from multiple learning groups (High School only), students will maintain a 2m distance from those outside of their learning groups. Shared equipment will be cleaned and disinfected and students will be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after participating in classes.

Masks can be temporarily removed while engaging in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument).

K-12 staff and students must wear masks while singing indoors.

[Guidelines for Music Classes in BC During COVID-19](#)

P.E./Health Education Classes:

P.E. classes will take place in students' learning groups and will be outdoors as much as possible. Physical activities will be focused on activities that do not use equipment as much as possible. Shared equipment will be cleaned and disinfected as per required guidelines. Students and employees will be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after participating in classes.

In Grades 4 and 5, and Middle School/High School activities indoor which are high intensity students should be spaced 2m apart. If conditions cannot be met activities

are to be replaced with low-intensity exercise activities. Wearing masks during high-intensity exercise (indoor or outdoor) is left to personal choice.

For low intensity activities, Grade 4 and 5, and Middle School/High School students are required to wear masks when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.

Will sports programs be running?

Until further notice, we will be running intra school sporting events within learning groups. There will be no interscholastic competition at this time. See the [Return to School Sports Plan from BC School Sports](#).

Will students attend field trips?

If a field trip is planned all existing policies and procedures as well as COVID-19 health and safety guidelines will be enforced. Field trip locations will be approved by administration and ensure they do not conflict with the school's plan. Outdoor field trip locations will be prioritized and no overnight field trips will occur. Use of parent volunteers will not be permitted.

Notes Specific to Early Learning at Aberdeen Hall

Please see the [Safe Return to Campus: Preschool Information FAQ](#) for policy updates, links and resources **specific to child care settings**.