

Deputy Minister's Bulletin

Ministry of Education



May 15, 2020

Announcement: Expansion of In-Class Instruction Starting June 1

Today, Minister Fleming announced an [increase to in-class instruction](#) under Stage 3 of [BC's K-12 Education Restart Plan](#). This announcement included new [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Setting](#) that adhere to the standards set by [WorkSafeBC](#) and the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#).

The Ministry recognizes the right of First Nations to determine the approach to instruction in First Nations schools and will continue to work closely with the First Nations Schools Association and the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) to share information and collaborate on areas of mutual interest. The Ministry will also continue to work with FNESC to ensure that the increase to in-class instruction in the BC K-12 system is implemented in a manner consistent with the Province's broader obligations to Indigenous students and their families.

Action Required: Stage 3 Return-to-School Instruction Plan for School Districts

Following today's announcement for the move to Stage 3, school districts are asked to submit a return-to-instruction plan to the Ministry at educ.covid@gov.bc.ca by Monday, May 25. Please use this [template](#) to complete your school district's plan. The Independent Schools Branch is working with FISA to develop their own template and a separate process. Further information will follow. First Nations independent school authorities are exempt from this process and request.

Supporting Materials for School Districts and Independent School Authorities

- [BC's K-12 Education Restart Plan](#): Released today to outline the five-step approach for resuming in-class instruction.
- [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Setting](#): Released today to provide detailed information and guidelines pertaining to health and safety in K-12 schools.
- [WorkSafeBC K-12 Education Protocols](#): Released today to provide guidance and protocols for returning to operation for K-12 education providers.
- [Operational Guidelines for School Districts and Independent School Authorities](#) (formerly known as the *Integrated Planning Framework*): Updated today to include supports for the move to Stage 3. The Ministry welcomes feedback as this new version of the document will be refined over the coming weeks.
- [Continuity of Learning – Planning Guide for Teachers](#) (last updated May 8, 2020)
- [BCCDC COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#): Updated today to provide health and safety standards for schools to operate in Stage 3.
- [BCCDC Guidelines – Caring for Children with COVID-19](#) (last updated April 3, 2020)

Resources for Parents and Guardians

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on Continuity of Learning](#): Updated today to address the announcement about Stage 3 increase to in-class instruction starting June 1.
 - [Keep Learning](#): Provides learning resources and supports for K-12 students. This site is being updated as new resources are available.
 - [BC's Response to COVID-19 website](#): Provides up-to-date non-clinical information on COVID-19. The COVID-19 app is available on [Apple's app store](#) and the [Google Play store](#). British Columbians can also use the new provincial phone service by calling 1-888-COVID19, available seven days a week from 7:30AM to 8:00PM, with information in over 110 languages. Specific public health questions re: COVID-19 should be directed to your local health authority.
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Other Links

- [BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- [Community-based measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control – Information on COVID-19](#)
- [HealthLink BC – Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

Inquiries

School/school district administrators are encouraged to contact the Ministry by email at educ.covid@gov.bc.ca or by phone at 236-478-2712 with COVID-19 related inquiries. For more information visit the [Ministry's Safe & Healthy Schools web page](#).

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