



School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

Board of Education of School District No. 71

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Office of the Superintendent of Schools

May 8, 2020

Dear Staff,

The purpose of this letter is to follow up on the Premier's recent announcement regarding "BC's Restart Plan" which consists of 4 phases. As was mentioned in the plan, Phase 3 of the plan identified a partial return of students in June leading to an expanded return of students for September.

The Ministry of Education has also identified its priorities moving forward in order to facilitate the provincial direction. It consists of 5 stages.

Stage 5 – A full shut down of the school system

Stage 4 – School care for Essential Service Workers Children, support for some vulnerable students and online learning for the vast majority of students.

Stage 3 – K-5 learning on a graduated part time basis and Grade 6-12 online with face to face instruction on an as needed basis.

Stage 2 – K-7 face to face instruction and 8-12 a combination of face to face and online learning.

Stage 1 – A full return of all students to face to face instruction.

Currently, our district and the majority of the province is at Stage 4. With the intention of moving to Stage 3 by June. In order to meet this timeline, the district continues to work with WorkSafe BC and the Provincial health Office to establish protocols and procedures to ensure the safety of our employees and our students. Next week, 4 schools have been selected to begin a gradual face to face support for their vulnerable learners. A scheduled opening for the remainder of the schools will occur soon after. Before any staff or student enters our buildings, all employees will be trained in the Health and Safety protocols that have been established. All our employees will have the opportunity of returning to schools without students present so they can create this new work environment. Our schools Joint Health and Safety Committees will be given the initial training and then will assume the responsibility of training the remaining employees in their respective buildings.

As we transition to the next stage of the education plan, we encourage you to maintain close contact with your school administrators to ensure your questions and concerns are answered. As I mentioned before, we are extremely grateful for the work each and everyone of you continues to do in support of our students in their learning journey. As we prepare to enter Stage 3 an online workshop has been designed for all staff, facilitated by Kim Barthel on Friday, May 15th from 2:00-3:30 pm around the topic of "assessing resilience and supporting people in being their best selves". Further details about the workshop along with a link will be forthcoming in an email sent to everyone individually.

Rest assured as we move forward, staff and students safety is paramount. Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Respectfully,

Mr. Tom Demeo

Superintendent of Schools