



## School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

January 7, 2021

Dear Comox Valley Schools Families,

Schools in SD 71 will be open on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> for all students with additional health and safety measures in place. Buses will be running as usual and StrongStartBC programs will be available.

This week, schools have been working to implement changes to health and safety protocols and developing a continuation of learning plan.

Throughout SD 71, school plans and procedures regarding communicable disease prevention have been developed in alignment with the safety protocols and procedures outlined by both [School District 71 Communicable Disease Prevention Protocols](#) and the [BCCDC's Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

The Ministry of Education recently developed an [addendum](#) to the Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 settings based on public health's current knowledge of the Omicron variant. Comox Valley Schools staff have been working to ensure school plans are in line with the updated guidelines.

Schools are reinforcing existing safety measures, including:

- Using all available space to maximize space between people.
- Making use of different common spaces and changing classroom and learning environment configurations where applicable.
- Ensuring everyone is wearing a mask while indoors, except those individuals who have a mask exemption. Should your student have a mask exemption, please discuss this with your school's principal.

Schools are also implementing enhanced safety measures, such as:

- Applying strategies that prevent crowding during class transition times.
- Holding many school gatherings and events virtually. If they must be in-person, limit the number of people to no more than 50% operating capacity.
- Holding staff-only gatherings virtually whenever possible.
- Limiting visitors in our buildings.
- Pausing extracurricular sports tournaments.

If your child is feeling unwell or experiencing any sickness related symptoms, please do not send them to school. We remind everyone to continue to practice proper hand washing hygiene. Anyone entering a school must ensure they have completed a daily health check.

Comox Valley Schools is committed to maintaining healthy schools for all students, staff and visitors. We continue to work in step with public health and we need your support to keep our schools safe.

Thank you for helping make our schools safe for the duration of this school year.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Demeo', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tom Demeo  
Superintendent of Schools  
School District 71 (Comox Valley)