



Achievement

Community

Integrity **I**nclusivity

Respect **R**esponsibility **R**esiliency

BUILDING THE LEGACY

Chilliwack Secondary School

Return to School Plan

September 2021



2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Chilliwack Secondary looks forward to welcoming students for a safe start of the 2021-2022 school year.

The BC Ministry of Education directed that secondary schools will reopen in September with a return to full-time, in-class learning with enhanced safety measures. The [Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings 2021-2022](#) will provide a safe launch to the upcoming school year and reduce the opportunities for transmission of COVID-19. This plan incorporates the most current information from the BC Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and ongoing consultation with the Chilliwack School District.

Our plan is a multi-layered approach with various safety measures to mitigate opportunities for the transmission of COVID-19. The implementation is a shared responsibility between Chilliwack Secondary staff, Chilliwack School District, Fraser Health Authority, family households and our students. By collectively implementing the plan, our schools will be safe for our students and staff.

Student and staff safety are the top priorities for Chilliwack Secondary School. As we begin the 2021-2022 school year, we are prepared to respond to changes, as necessary, based on directions from the Ministry of Education, BC Medical Health Officers and the Chilliwack School District.

We understand that some families may have further questions after reading the plan outlined in this document. Chilliwack Secondary will continue to provide updates and communicate with parents/guardians as per the typical means of communication. Should you have specific questions about your child, please contact our Administration via email or phone at (604) 604-795-7295.

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The most up to date information will be available on the Chilliwack Secondary website at:

<https://chilliwacksecondary.sd33.bc.ca/home>

STUDENT SCREENING

Parents/guardians are required to assess their children daily and disclose whether they are experiencing any signs of illness and are expected to keep them home if they are. **Parents/guardians are asked to utilize this [screening check-list](#) prior to sending their student(s) each day.**

All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must not attend school and should seek appropriate medical attention as required, including getting tested at a COVID-19 testing centre.

Staff members will be provided with information on signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in students so that appropriate action can be taken if students develop symptoms during the day. Students feeling sick should remain at home while waiting for test results, Fraser Health authorities will advise on individual return to school conditions and timelines for students. Signs prompting self-assessment screening will be posted on the exterior doors and throughout our school.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND SPACE ARRANGEMENTS

Although public health no longer recommends learning groups and physical distancing of 2M as communicable disease measures for the K-12 setting, there are a number of strategies that schools can consider to help create space between people and to support students and staff in returning to school using a trauma-informed approach:

- Remind students and staff about respecting others personal space. Use visual supports, signage, prompts, video modelling, etc. as necessary.
- Use available space to spread people out, both in learning environments and for gatherings and events, where possible.
- Implement strategies that prevent crowding at pick-up and drop-off times. Focus on entry and exit areas, and other places where people may gather or crowd.
- Take students outside more often, where and when possible.
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways and around lockers, to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through. o Use floor markings and posters to address traffic flow throughout the school. This may include one-way hallways and designated entrance and exit doors.

STUDENTS AND MASKS

All K to 12 staff, students in grades 4 to 12, and visitors are required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including:

- At their desks
- On school buses

Exceptions to the mask policy include:

- A person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for medical reasons
- A person 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. For example:
 - Playing a wind instrument
 - Engaging in high-intensity physical activity
- If a person is eating or drinking
- If a person is behind a barrier
- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (for example, a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.

CLEANING

Cleaning protocols will be enhanced as a method of reducing the likelihood of transmission of COVID-19. Additional temporary custodial staff will be hired for the duration of the pandemic and will be responsible for enhanced cleaning protocols that align with BC Ministry of Education School Reopening Guidelines.

- more frequent cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school day, with specific attention to washrooms, high-traffic areas and classrooms.

All of our custodial teams will follow infection control procedures provided by WorkSafeBC and the B.C. Centre for Disease Control to ensure our buildings are safe and sanitized. Enhanced cleaning practices include:

- purchasing provincially recommended COVID- 19 cleaning supplies;
- additional training for custodial staff;
- general cleaning and disinfecting of school district sites at least once every 24 hours
- frequently cleaning and disinfecting high- touch surfaces (like doorknobs, light switches, desks, etc.)

HYGIENE

Rigorous hand-washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness (antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19). Follow these guidelines to ensure effective hand hygiene in schools:

- Practice diligent hand hygiene by washing hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds (temperature does not change the effectiveness of washing hands with plain soap and water).
- Use portable hand-washing sites and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers containing at least 60% alcohol, where sinks are not available.
- Hand-washing will be encouraged upon school entry and before/after breaks and eating, using washroom and using frequently touched shared equipment.
- Promote the importance of diligent hand hygiene to staff and students regularly. For example, display this hand hygiene poster at handwashing sites.
- Students may bring their own sanitizer or plain soap if they are on the list authorized by Health Canada or have a medical condition that requires specialized soaps. (See the List of Hand Sanitizers Authorized by Health Canada in Canada.)
- If hands are visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand rub may not be effective at eliminating microbes. Soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly dirty. If it is not available, use an alcohol-based hand wipe followed by alcohol-based hand rub.

When students should perform hand hygiene:

- When they arrive at school. ▪ Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).
- Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk or locker).
- Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes with shared equipment.
- After using the toilet.
- After sneezing or coughing into hands.
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty.

PARENT/GUARDIAN ACCESS

Parents/Guardians can stay in contact with Chilliwack Secondary staff through our school website, email, phone. Parents/guardians who are contacted to pick up a sick child can attend the school site immediately. If a parent must enter the building, they must complete the school district's Daily Health Assessment and a mask must be worn.

VISITORS

- Visitors/District Staff must be aware of health and safety protocols and requirements prior to entering the school.
- Visitors/District Staff completed the daily health check before entering.
- Visitors/District Staff must sign the visitor log.
- Visitors/District Staff will be required to wear a mask.

SUSPECTED CASES AND POSITIVE TEST RESULTS

Positive COVID-19 cases are only confirmed by official public health authorities, in our case, the Fraser Health Authority.

If a student shows any COVID-19 symptoms at school where confirmed case has been identified, there are safety protocols in place to protect students and staff:

- The child waits in an isolated room;
- The school contacts parents/guardians to take the child home;
- Staff clean and disinfect exposure areas; and

If a positive case occurs, the Fraser Health Authority will:

- Contact trace to identify potential COVID-19 exposures;
- May recommend testing;
- May recommend 14-day isolation if necessary;
- Get in touch with close contacts; and

Parents will be notified if their child has been in contact with a COVID-positive person and needs to self-isolate. Students will receive learning support while self-isolating.

ASSESSMENT, REPORTING & COMMUNICATION

Chilliwack Secondary staff will continue to assess students throughout the school year utilizing current Ministry of Education assessment practices. Formal reporting periods will continue to occur at the end of each term and semester with informal reporting on a continual basis. Chilliwack Secondary is committed to communicating student learning to students and families. This will be done in formal and informal ways throughout the year. Chilliwack Secondary follows the guidelines of the Ministry of Education to ensure that student reporting policies are consistent with provincial expectations. These policies include expectations about interim reports as well as term and final report cards. We continue to encourage parents/guardians to connect with their child's teacher directly as concerns arise or updates are requested.

MENTAL HEALTH

We know that COVID-19 is causing a lot of uncertainty for students, staff and our school communities. Mental health and well-being will be a strong focus for us. Our focus will be on reconnecting the community using a relationship-based approach to support safety, belonging, and inclusion. Our staff will be supported in providing a relationship-based perspective in all aspects of student interaction, whether in-person or online. Every student will continue to have access to supports and services to address mental health concerns through our existing referral process. School Counsellors will provide (counselling) support and facilitate referrals to community mental health services for students.

To support students and families, our school district will continue to provide mental health resources that will be released in the coming days and available on our school district website –

<https://sd33.bc.ca/>

Parents or guardians who are concerned about their child's well-being can reach out to these community resources:

[Kid's Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868](tel:1-800-668-6868)

Call to speak to a professional counsellor -available 24 hours/day

[Health Link: 8-1-1](tel:8-1-1)

[Chilliwack Youth Center https://chilliwackyhc.com/](https://chilliwackyhc.com/)

Access virtual & in-person drop-in counselling & Medical sessions and group offerings to young people ages 12-24 and their caregivers

[B.C. Parent: Reduce Stress & Prepare for Back to School COVID-19 Resources](#)