

McCammon Elementary Stage 2 COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols

September 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the great work that has been happening as we develop Health & Safety protocols for the safe return of staff and students to school next week.

Based on the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in B.C., the latest research, guidance from the Provincial Health Officer, and evidence that children are at a lower risk of developing and transmitting COVID-19, K-12 students can return to full-time, in-class instruction in accordance with current public health guidelines for schools. These comprehensive guidelines build on the [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#) developed by the [Office of the Provincial Health Officer](#) and the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) (BCCDC) to ensure schools have robust measures in place to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. The health and safety guidelines established at McCammon have been developed to complement, and in some cases **exceed**, the BC Centre for Disease Control and [WorkSafeBC](#) protocols.

McCammon Elementary is a highly controlled environment and safe for staff and students. Below are just a few of the Health & Safety measures we have put into place as a means of reducing the possible risk of transmission of COVID-19 along with the potential entrance of any infectious disease into our school.

Daily Health Checks

- Parents/Guardians are responsible for administering a Daily Health Check (attached to this letter) on their child(ren) each morning and staff must also self-assess.
 - If staff or students have any cold, influenza, COVID-19 or any other infectious disease like symptoms (outlined on the attached Daily Health Checklist), they **must** remain home and consult a health care professional to rule out COVID-19 before returning to school. School administration will work with staff and families in these situations to ensure staff and students have been cleared to return to school.

General Safety Measures

- All staff are required to wear a non-medical mask when working with students outside their cohort, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Plexi-glass barriers will be used in areas such as our library and multi-purpose room.
- Every classroom in McCammon has a sink with hand soap and paper towel being refilled daily.
- Drinking fountains remain closed. This **exceeds** health requirements but we feel it is safer for students to bring a personal water bottle and use one of our contactless refillable water bottle stations.

Cohorts/Learning Groups

- Students will be attached to a cohort with a maximum of 60 students. At McCammon, we will **exceed** this health requirement for September start-up as our students will be in cohorts of 40-50 students.
- During recess and lunch, students will only play with other students in their cohort. Provincial health guidelines allow elementary students to intermingle between cohorts while outside. At McCammon, we will **exceed** this guideline by not allowing students from different cohorts to play during recess and lunch. This will be re-evaluated in October.
- Our recess and lunch times will be staggered to decrease the number of students outside at one time to half our school population.
- Cohorts will have designated washrooms to reduce interactions of students between different cohorts, which again **exceeds** provincial guidelines.

Personal Hygiene

- Students will be regularly taught about hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (coughing & sneezing).
- Staff and students will wash their hands when entering the school, whenever they cough or sneeze on their hands, when leaving and upon returning to their classroom, when heading out for recess and lunch and then again when they return back to the classrooms from outside, and before exiting the school at the end of the day.
- Students choosing to wear masks, will also be encouraged to wash their hands before and after touching their masks.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Our school will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with [the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document](#).
- We have received additional custodial time to assist with regular cleaning and disinfecting of high contact surfaces, washrooms and ongoing regular general cleaning.
- Many rooms will have disinfectant spray bottles for further cleaning, which **exceeds** cleaning requirements outlined by the BCCDC.

We recognize that people may be nervous to send their child(ren) back to school and hope this information helps to reassure everyone that McCammon Elementary is a safe place. If after reading this information, you still have questions or worries, please email either of us as we are more than happy to discuss things.

Thank you again for your ongoing understanding and support during these challenging times. We know with confidence that our school community, like it always has, will unite **Together, To Be Our Best!**

Warm regards,



Mr. Brad Driscoll
Principal

brad_driscoll@sd33.bc.ca



Ms. Jaimee Charlie
Vice-Principal

jaimie_charlie@sd33.bc.ca