



École St-Sacrement † Blessed Sacrament

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Good afternoon Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you and your families have had an enjoyable summer. As you know, we are getting ready to receive your children in school after Labour Day weekend. The school office is now open as we make the final push towards Sept 7th. I want to take this opportunity to provide you with some information and health and safety protocols as it pertains to the pandemic.

Full-Time In-Person Instruction

The Ministry of Education confirmed in their Tuesday [media release](#) that schools are returning to **full-time in-person instruction this September**. At this time, there is no distance learning option offered from ESS. Also announced on Tuesday were the updated operational guidelines for K-12 schools. Our PEC and Health and Safety committee have approved the following Protocols starting September 2021.

ÉSS Health & Safety Protocols

- As mandated by WorkSafeBC, a new Communicable Disease Program will replace our school's Safety Plan. It will have many similarities to our current plan but will reflect any new measures being implemented. Our plan will be available on our website early next week.
- Regional Medical Health Officers will now have the authority to implement additional safety requirements at a regional, district or school level should that be required. VCH is our regional health authority with whom we are in meetings on a monthly basis.
- All staff and students in Gr 4-7 are required to wear masks while indoors or on a school bus. K-Gr 3 students are encouraged to wear masks, but this remains the choice of the student and their family. Please ensure your child's mask is labeled and you supply them with 4 masks in a Ziplock bag. The school also has disposable masks available, thanks to the Ret-Davis family. Please review proper mask wear with your child prior to school start. [Wear It Well: A Mask How-To for Kids - YouTube](#)
- ESS continues to strongly encourage all adults to wear a mask on school grounds during drop-off and pickup, traffic duty, and any communication with staff indoor and outdoor. We will have orange pylons to indicate student only zones. Please stay behind the pylons in order to create a safe space for kids to line up before school and to be dismissed after school.
- General cleaning of the premises, and the cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, will occur at least once in a 24-hour period.
- Staff and students (or their parents) are to continue to do their own Daily Health Check and **should remain home** if they are not feeling well.
- If there is a positive COVID-19 case at the school, VCH authorities will contact you if your child is a direct contact.

- Service providers and parents will be required to sign-in at the office front counter to confirm that they are feeling well for entry into the school for any purpose.
- Our ventilation systems will continue to use high-filtering HEPA Fresh Air Purifiers as recommended. All windows will be open during school hours to provide natural air flow.
- Assigned cohorts are no longer required nor strict distancing during in-school activities for students, but we will maximize on the use of space we have available for all our students' school activities. Outdoor activities will continue to be strongly encouraged.
- School gatherings and events will now align with provincial/regional guidelines. The following activities will now be able to occur:
 - All sacraments including school mass and confessions
 - Extra-curricular activities & assemblies
 - Sports, theater, and dance
 - Staff gatherings and meetings

We remain vigilant and committed to our students' safety and reserve the right to update our communicable Disease Plan following Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) instructions and BC Health officers. Additional guidance and information can be found in the Ministry of Education document: [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

We know that school is important for our students and our goal remains to provide an engaging learning environment while prioritizing appropriate health and safety measures. I thank you for your cooperation with our safe return-to-school plan. Please feel free to email me at principal@ess.vancouver.bc.ca if you have any questions. We are looking forward to a positive and safe year ahead and are excited to see our students again. God bless your families and see you after Labour Day!

Sincerely,

Mme Mykyte



Directrice/ Principal
École Saint-Sacrement / Blessed Sacrament School