



January 2022

Dear JCS Families,

There is a lot of information to share regarding the return to school. Please see the attached message from Fraser Health regarding a return to in-person instruction.

Over the past week we have been reviewing and our health and safety protocols. We are continuing to follow the updated health and safety measures provided in [COVID-19 Safe Schools](#) and are committed to ensuring your student's learning environment is as safe as possible. We are grateful for your partnership and continued diligence. We have changed some of our protocols and procedures which will be described later in this email. Important actions we are asking you to continue include:

- Completing the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) **each day** and following the advice provided.
- Having your child stay home when sick.
- Encouraging mask wearing and hand hygiene.
- Maintaining physical distancing.
- Observing the international travel guidelines

Notifications and Contact Tracing

As noted in the attached information from Fraser Health, with the rapid spread and short incubation period of the highly transmissible Omicron variant of COVID-19, we have moved into a period where families and individuals must self-manage their symptoms, care, and contact tracing when they believe they have been infected with COVID-19. Short incubation periods associated with Omicron do not allow for effective contact tracing efforts and exposures could result in infection before advance notice could be provided. It is essential that families and individuals use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) and inform their close contacts. Health authorities will no longer be providing school exposure notifications and contact tracing information to school districts for distribution. Further, for reasons of privacy protection, schools cannot release individual contact information for the purpose of an individual to notify others – staff, student, or family. Also, the school will not be able to notify others on their behalf.



Functional Closures

In addition to reviewing and revising our health and safety protocols, we have been planning for the possibility of temporary functional closures. A functional closure occurs when we can no longer adequately supervise or instruct children within the classroom or the school. This situation could arise when, due to staff illness and limited TOC availability, we have insufficient staff to remain open and provide instruction. If this happens, students will begin learning remotely from home with materials and support provided by the classroom teacher. The maximum period for a functional closure is intended to be 7 days.

We recognize that any such closure is stressful for our entire community and that sudden changes in routine will cause disruption and inconvenience for many families. We intend to provide families with as much information as quickly as possible if there is a potential functional closure and a shift to remote learning. We have created plans which we believe will minimize the need for a functional closure and hope that such events will be rarely used. Nevertheless, we must be prepared.

Each student now has an assigned Chromebook for use at school. We have tested all student accounts on our digital platforms to troubleshoot and solve technical issues that arose during testing. We've preloaded necessary meeting links and will practice accessing accounts and links with students throughout the week beginning January 10. We will be individually emailing your students logon information for home use. If your student does not have access to a device at home, and would need to borrow a school device, please inform the office. We will ask you to sign an additional technology agreement which requires families to assume financial responsibility if the device is damaged, lost or stolen and needs repaired or replaced.

Of course, our goal is to remain in in-person learning. We do not want to move to remote learning from home, but we are required to be prepared. Please continue to follow all the preventative measures, self-monitor for symptoms, and stay home when sick.

Procedural Changes at JCS

Ventilation:

- Please make sure your students are dressed warmly. Where possible, classrooms windows will be opened to allow for increased ventilation.
- New, upgraded air filters are being installed on the furnace to increase filtration.
- Classrooms without outdoor windows have HEPA filtration units with new filters.

Arrival:

- Students will continue to line up each morning on designated spots. Please make sure that your student is at school, and lined up, by 8:15 each day.



- Classrooms will be released one at a time and escorted by their teachers inside where they will hand sanitize and remove their outdoor shoes.
- Some classrooms may now be using the back stairwell to access or depart from classrooms.
- To minimize overcrowding near the entrance and speed the entry process students will carry their outdoor shoes upstairs and place them where directed by their teacher. Shoes will now be changed in their classrooms prior/following arrival, dismissal, and recess breaks.

Recess:

- Students will change into their outdoor shoes in their classrooms prior to heading downstairs and some classrooms will now be using the back stairwell for entry and exit.
- Prior to winter break, seventh grade school leaders had been helping with recess entry procedures. Unfortunately, this leadership opportunity will be discontinued until further notice.

Assemblies:

- Following the latest guidance, assemblies and other school gatherings will be virtual until further notice.

Dismissal:

- To minimize overcrowding near the door, classes will be escorted to their designated lines where students will wait for their adults to arrive.
- Once the student sees their adult, they will alert their teacher before joining their adult.

Signs of/onset of illness while at school:

- The student will be isolated while the parent/guardian is notified and remain isolated, but supervised, until their transport arrives.
- Parents should consult their medical professional or use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) and follow the guidance provided before returning their student to school.

As mentioned in our December 29 email, our cleaning protocols continue to meet or exceed the enhanced guidelines.

Thank you for your continued support.

Better Together,
Jody Vanegas
Principal