

# School District No. 57 (Prince George)

## Back to School FAQs

### *When will parents get information about what back to school will look like?*

- Parents will receive information regarding the plans for return to school once they are approved by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry has said this will be by August 26, 2020
- The District and schools are working on the Health and Safety guidelines for [Stage 2 Return to Schools](#) plans.

### *Are students required to attend school in person in September?*

- Given the permitted sizes of Learning Groups (Cohorts), it is expected that elementary and middle school students will return to full-time, in-class instruction with minimal modification to school structures and timetables. Secondary schools will adjust timetables and school schedules as required to ensure all students can attend school on a full-time basis and maximize in-class instruction.

### ***The BC Ministry of Education states:***

- Based on current public health advice and the health and safety plans to be put into place by all school districts and independent school associations in B.C., K-12 schools are safe to re-open in Stage 2 in September. **This means that most students will have access to full in-class instruction and schools will be ready to welcome them back.**
- Parents of children with complex medical conditions or underlying risk factors should consult with their health care provider to determine their child's level of risk regarding returning to school. They should also reach out to their current school to discuss available options and support.
- According to the Provincial Health Officer and the BCCDC, most children with immune compromise can return to school when safety measures are in place. Protective self-isolation is only recommended for children with severe immune compromise, on a case-by-case basis.
- For more information, see BCCDC's guidance for families of immunocompromised children in school and group gatherings, and their Frequently Asked Questions regarding COVID-19 and children with immune suppression.
- Regardless of which stage we find ourselves in, parents will continue to have choices regarding their child's educational program.

### ***Remote learning supported by schools will not be available to students during Stage 2 Return to School.***

- Parents who do not want to their child to attend in-person classes at a public or independent school have the option to register their child for online/distributed learning or home-schooling.

## ***Home schooling vs Distributed Learning:***

### **Homeschooling**

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/classroom-alternatives/homeschooling>

Homeschooling is an alternative method of teaching offered outside the B.C. educational system. Typically, a family member delivers the entire educational program to children at home. Homeschooling programs are not:

- Supervised by a B.C.-certified teacher
- Required to meet provincial standards
- Inspected by the Ministry of Education

Choosing this option means parents must provide and supervise their child's entire educational program, including curriculum and learning materials.

As, by law, all children in BC must be educated, a student must still be registered at a school for reporting to the Ministry of Education.

### **Online and Distributed Learning**

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/classroom-alternatives/online-distributed-learning>

In this style of learning, students can connect with their teacher from anywhere in BC. Teachers use a wide variety of electronic tools to teach their students including voice and video conferencing over the Internet, email, telephone calls and others. Every DL school provides a teacher who works with each student to:

- Plan and deliver a course of study
- Get course textbooks and resources
- Assess student progress and complete a report card

Students must register and enroll in courses at a BC Distributed Learning school  
[Click here to find a public school distributed learning program](#)

### *If I choose to keep my child home for this school year what happens in the Fall of 2021?*

- Students who do not attend school in a classroom and:
  - Are Homeschooled:
    - Will return to their catchment school for the Fall of 2021 in the grade associated with their birth year
  - Are enrolled in a Distributed Learning Schools (DL):
    - Will return to their catchment school for the Fall of 2021 in the grade following their course or grade in the DL school.
  - Are French Immersion students:
    - Will return to their choice program in the grade of their birth year or the grade following the course or grade in the DL school, **ONLY if there is space to accommodate them.**
  - Are attending an out of catchment school:
    - Will return to their catchment school for the Fall of 2021 in the grade following their course or grade in the DL school.

### *My child should be starting kindergarten in Fall and I am considering keeping them home for the year. What happens in the Fall of 2021?*

- Kindergarten in British Columbia is still optional. Students who stay home for an extra year will be enrolled in Grade 1 in the Fall of 2021.

### *Will there be Health and Safety Guidelines for schools to follow?*

- During the [Stage 3 of the Return to School SD57 plan](#), schools planned and implemented safe school procedures.
- Schools will once again be required to plan and implement safety procedures and practices following the guidelines established by the Ministry of Education in partnership with the Provincial Health Officer for Stage 2 Return to School

### *Will students be required to wear masks?*

- For all students and staff, non-medical masks will be available for use in situations where the person is interacting outside of their cohort (learning group) and cannot maintain physical distance for an extended period of time. This includes riding the bus to school where a student may be sitting next to a person outside of their household or cohort.

### *What happens if my child becomes sick at school?*

- Schools have clear protocols when a child becomes ill while at school
  - The parent/caregiver will be immediately called informing them their child is ill
  - The parent/caregiver will need to pick up their child from school as soon as possible
  - The student will be able to wait in a comfortable quiet location for their parent/caregiver to pick them up
  - The parent/caregiver should use the BC COVID 19 Self- Assessment Tool. If concerned contact 8-1-1.