



# SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

2100 Ferry Avenue, Prince George, B.C. V2N 4R5  
[www.sd57.bc.ca](http://www.sd57.bc.ca)

Phone: (250) 561-6800 • Fax (250) 561-6801

## Frequently Asked Questions -January 7, 2022

### ***When my child is sick, what do I do?***

Your child must stay home. If you have any symptoms of COVID 19 and/or the variants, no matter how minor, follow the guidance of [Northern Health](https://www.canada.ca/en/northern-health).

### ***What is a functional school closure?***

A functional closure of a school is determined by the school or school district due to a lack of staff to provide the required level of teaching, supervision, support, and/or custodial to ensure the health and safety of students. This would likely be due to a high absenteeism of all staff or certain employees required for a school to function and the inability to replace those absences.

### ***Will any students be in attendance during a functional closure?***

Consistent with all phases of COVID-19 planning, we need to continue to provide support for essential health care worker children, vulnerable children and children with diverse learning abilities and disabilities. This could include on site activities. Please contact the school principal if you meet the above criteria

### ***Where do I get information about ventilation in my school?***

The facilities department is working on clear communication regarding ventilation systems in our schools. This information will be posted on our district website.

### ***Will we be notified of positive cases and potential exposures in our school or at our work site?***

School districts will no longer be receiving exposure notification letters from Northern Health. A process to identify sites of concern will be through attendance tracking of staff and students. If the district identifies a site of concern, a call to the Medical Health Officer will be made for follow up. The Ministry of Education has determined thresholds for attendance to signal the concern.

### ***What enhanced safety measures are schools expected to have in place for January?***

1. *Among the enhanced safety measures, K-12 public and independent schools must:*
  - Implement strategies that prevent crowding during class transition times.
    - For example, different entrance and exit doors and times, stagger start/stop times and recess/lunch breaks.
  - Hold school gatherings and events (e.g., assemblies, etc.) virtually.
  - Hold staff-only gatherings (e.g., meetings, professional development activities) virtually.
  - Limit visitors to those who are supporting activities that directly benefit student learning, and well-being (e.g., teacher candidates, immunizers, meal program volunteers, etc.)
  - Pause extracurricular sports tournaments (consistent with the December PHO Order).



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2. *K-12 schools must also reinforce existing safety measures, including:*

- Using all available space to maximize space between people.
  - o For example, different common space, classroom, and learning environment configurations (e.g., different desk and table formations).
- Everyone able wears a mask.
- Doing daily health checks, and staying home when sick.

3. *The guidelines build on existing protocols that have succeeded in minimizing the spread of the virus in schools such as:*

- Everyone eligible getting fully vaccinated, doing a daily health check, and staying home when sick.
- Using available space to spread out, and to respect other's personal space.
- Wearing masks in accordance with the Provincial Health Officer Order on Face Coverings.
- Cleaning hands regularly.
- Cleaning and disinfecting at least once a day.

***Do the new rules prevent parents from entering schools?***

Schools will be limiting visitors to those that are offering services that are of direct benefit to students, like those helping with meal programs or teacher candidates. Schools will work with their parent community to ensure activities like drop off and pick up continue to occur safely, and that virtual options are provided when parents need to connect with their child's school (like for parent-teacher interviews).

***Will N95 masks be provided for teachers/staff/students?***

No, mask wearing will continue to be required for everyone inside schools. Schools will continue to provide 3 layer non-medical masks for those who don't have their own masks, as has been the case throughout the pandemic. School District 57 has a supply of masks for every school. Any changes in a mask policy will be communicated by the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer.