



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 28 (QUESNEL)

401 North Star Road, Quesnel, BC V2J 5K2 | Tel: 250-992-8802 | Fax: 250-992-7652 | www.sd28.bc.ca

January 7, 2022

Thank you to parents and guardians for their patience as we work through the latest challenge in this pandemic, in-person instruction resumes January 10, 2022. The administrative week as ordered, has served the staff of School District #28 well to allow for preparation in the event of a significant staffing disruption due to the impact of COVID 19 in our community. Teachers, principals, support staff and all District staff have worked to minimize future disruption; I want to thank each of them for this work. We are as prepared as possible to keep students connected and learning to the best of our ability; this is our commitment.

Parents and guardians will receive further information from their school regarding a plan for communication in the event of a Functional School Closure, Transportation Closure or other significant disruption to service in the school. We ask you to work with the school and teacher to ensure a means of continuing the child's learning. We do not expect Functional Closures to extend beyond 5-8 days, should they occur. We ask that families be patient and responsive in the event that situations develop quickly and students are required to be at home. School District #28 and all school plans have been developed to ensure we are utilizing staffing resources in a way that will prevent disruption and Functional Closure as best we can; again our commitment.

In the event of a Functional School Closure, communication will come from both the school and from the School District to provide information. It is possible that we learn of insufficient staffing resulting in a Functional Closure the morning of school, after children have already left for school. In this case, schools will ask families to pick students up if they are able and the Functional Closure will continue the following day.

During Functional School Closure, school will continue to be available for students of Health Care workers, School District #28 staff and students with support needs as long as staffing allows. We will make every effort to support this objective.

Here is a [link](#) to the School District 28 revised Communicable Disease Plan. This plan is revised based on the latest guidance from the BCCDC to help ensure schools **continue to be safe** spaces for students and staff. Schools have built upon on this plan with site-specific information to provide a further level of support/protection for staff and students.

I would like to remind all parents and community members of the importance of following all COVID Health and Safety Guidelines including staying home when you are ill. If your child is ill please contact your school to inform them and have your child remain at home, we will also ask that you indicate that your child is 'ill' if they are. Schools will not ask if your child has COVID-19 but will ask if they are 'ill'. This is a new Public Health measure to track illness in our community. I would also like to remind students of the importance of wearing a mask that fits properly for the duration of the time at school. Masks serve as a protective measure and are another measure that can help protect our community from interruptions to in-person learning for students. Schools will be reinforcing diligently, the importance of these two measures. If parents or guardians have questions please contact your child's school principal.

Provincial changes in contact tracing by Public Health have occurred. Public Health and schools will no longer be providing Exposure Notifications due to the nature of the Omicron variant. Further information on this change is listed [here](#). New guidance is provided for parents in the event of a positive test or parents learn of a potential exposure in the community. Schools will encourage parents to follow the guidance listed on the above website.

Thank you for your understanding and your continued support in this trying time. Schools are safe, caring places where learning occurs in many ways. Preserving in-person learning is of the utmost importance.

Dan Lowndes
Superintendent of Schools

