 **School District 5 Southeast Kootenay – Back to School 2021-2022**

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| Safety is our Priority | Guidelines |
| Students and staff can safely participate in full-time, in-class instruction in accordance with current public guidelines for schools. All members of our School District 5 Southeast Kootenay (SD5) community have a shared responsibility to protect themselves and others from the spread of COVID-19, or any other communicable disease. A detailed [*Communicable Disease Plan*](https://www.sd5.bc.ca/COVID2020-2021/Info2021/Pages/default.aspx#/=)is part of SD5’s commitment to promote the health and safety of all employees, students, and visitors by providing information that can be used to prevent the contraction and spread of communicable diseases, and to guide appropriate responses.Our plans are based on current guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control [(BCCDC).](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf)Supportive Environments* Supporting the health and well-being of students, staff and families continues to be our top priority.
* Addressing pandemic impacts on student learning and well-being, with a focus on the “whole child” including literacy, numeracy, social-emotional development and mental health.
* Providing inclusive and compassionate learning environments through trauma-informed practices.
* Implementing strategies to routinely support students to practice personal prevention measures.
 | To Continue:* All K -12 staff, visitors, and Gr. 4 -12 students required to wear masks - indoors and on buses
* K - Gr. 3 students encouraged to wear masks - personal/family choice
* [**Daily health check** - K-12 Health Check App, Self- Assessment Tool, or BCCDC's "](https://bc.thrive.health/)[When to get Tested](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/When_to_get_tested.pdf)"
* Don't come to school when sick - seek guidance
* Daily attendance management
* Daily cleaning & disinfecting - 1x/day
* Hand hygiene & respiratory etiquette - be diligent!
* Ventilation & air exchange
* Case & contact management - directed by public health
* Health and safety orientation - for staff & students

New:* Vaccinations - the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19. Available for ages 12 and older
* Full operation of all school spaces - gyms, libraries, washrooms, water fountains etc.
* Extra-curricular activities & sports - resume
* Regional health measures - as needed
* Gathering & events - resume in alignment with PHO orders
* Visitors are welcome - following safety guidelines; appointments encouraged

No longer:* Cohorts/Learning Groups
* Physical Distancing of 2m
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[*All members of the SD5 community are expected to follow the SD5 Communicable Disease Plan in conjunction with the BCCDC Public Health Guidelines for K-12 Schools, and the*](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf) [*Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings*](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidlines.pdf)[*. All employees are expected to read, know and organize their work i*](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf)*n accordance with these guidelines.*