



Auguston Traditional Elementary School



February 25, 2022

Dear Auguston Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware, the PHO has made changes to COVID protocols for all K-12 schools in BC. This means that we are back to the operations in place from September to December 2021. Below is a reminder of the remaining safety measures and the revised changes.

We need to be notified if your child will be absent/late. Please use **Safe Arrival** to communicate your child's absence: <https://www.abbyschools.ca/safe-arrival>.

As always, please reach out to us, should you have any questions or concerns (auguston@abbyschools.ca or Ph: 604-557-0422).

What safety measures will be implemented? What is new? What is back? What is the same? What do we continue to emphasize?

Strict safety measures, as outlined by the Provincial Health Officer and WorkSafeBC will be implemented to reduce the risk of Communicable Disease transmission.

- **Vaccinations.** Vaccines continue to be the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and communities. You can learn more at www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca.
- **Masks.** All K-12 staff, visitors, and students from kindergarten to grade 12 **are required** to wear a mask in all indoor areas of the school and on school buses. There is no requirement for anyone to wear masks outside. Also, masks aren't required indoors during high intensity physical activity (as determined by Principal and Physical Education Teacher and/or staff member).
- **Daily Health Checks.** To reduce the likelihood of coming to a school or district site when ill, students, staff, and other adults (e.g. visitors) are required to complete a daily health check prior to entering the building: [Health Assessment](#).
- **Hand sanitizing and Washing Hands.** Continues to be an important part of the day.
- **Stay home when sick.** Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell. Students who become ill at school will be taken to the medical room. Parents will be notified to pick them up promptly.

- **Physical Distancing.** While public health no longer recommends strict physical distancing of two meters, our schools and district sites will work on strategies to help with respecting personal space, including using available learning spaces and taking students and learning opportunities outside, where and when possible. Students will NOT be gathering in hallways or common areas.

Other measures of note:

- **Cleaning:** There will be a deep cleaning of the school every 24-hour period.
- **Staggered Entry:** There is no longer a requirement to stagger student entry or exit in the hallways.
- **Signage** regarding physical distancing practices and hand washing protocols will be posted throughout the school.
- **“Traffic” signs**, directional arrows and floor markings will guide safe movement within the school and provide direction for physical distancing. Cones will be down the center of the hallway to ensure students stay further apart.
- **High touch Equipment** and learning spaces will not be shared unless cleaning has occurred.
- **School gatherings and events:** For school gatherings and events that bring together multiple classes or other groupings of students (e.g., school assemblies, multiple classes doing a single activity) from the same school (but members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers are not attending), there is not a specific capacity limit.
- **School extracurricular and social gatherings** and events that bring together members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers (e.g., an arts club performance, community fair), or that occur between schools (e.g., a music festival, a sports game or tournament), indoor capacity should not exceed 50 people or 50% of operating capacity (whichever is greater) **and with Principal approval.**
- **Spectators (e.g. parents, caregivers, peers)**, may be present for gatherings and events (e.g. attend performance club theatre productions, inter-school sports games and tournaments, etc.) within capacity limits **and with Principal approval.**
- **Vaccination requirements:** **schools should not implement proof of vaccination requirements** for school-led gatherings and events.
- **Visitors:** are no longer limited to those supporting activities of direct benefit to student learning and well-being. We will continue to have the front door locked. Please ring doorbell to access.

If you may have some additional questions after reading this information, please feel free to email me (auguston@abbyschools.ca).

Sincerely,

Ryan Colbert
Principal