



# School District No. 60

PEACE RIVER NORTH

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

K-12 Restart  
August 20, 2020

Dear Parents,

Since the announcement on July 29th of a return to school this September, District and school administrators have been putting together our safety and learning plans. We will be ready to receive students on Thursday, September 10th and are looking forward to having all our students back in school!

The guidelines for this plan have been developed by the BC Public Health Office under the direction of Dr. Bonnie Henry. The enhanced cleaning of schools and buses, washing of hands, traffic flow management, etc. will all be in place along with extra cleaning personnel and sanitization stations. Additionally, schools will be organized into “Learning Groups”, which are very similar to the current elementary model where there is a defined group of students interacting with each other and a limited number of adults. This allows Public Health to carry out “contact tracing” as part of their health measures.

We learned a lot from our limited restart in June and were able to establish extensive health and safety procedures for students and staff that will continue this Fall. As opposed to other public activities, school is a highly controlled environment, where we know the attendance and location of every person, are able to implement regular handwashing procedures, and control access to the building.

Having students back in school is very important for our community and society. Many of our youth and families have endured serious hardship and challenges as a result of limited access to in-person instruction and support. In addition to the safety measures mentioned above, here are some of the key elements of which parents should be aware:

- Parents will be provided with a “Daily Health Check” checklist to carry out with their children each day before sending them to school. Any students or staff that are sick are not to attend. If a child is sick at school, parents will be contacted for immediate pick-up. The parents will connect with health authorities in terms of illness and COVID symptoms.
- If there is a case of COVID-19 transmission, whether it is in the public or school domain, Northern Health takes the lead and is responsible for all communications and follow-up. They alone determine who is a “close contact”, who needs to be notified and who is required to self-isolate.

- There are some very specific cases of students that are immunocompromised, undergoing medical treatments, etc. that would put them at greater risk. Parents should work with their doctor and school principal to determine the best course of action and education program.
- Parents may be considering other educational options. We would like to see all our students back in their schools. However, other options include Distributed Learning (Key Learning Center), home-schooling and private education options.
- All bus runs will be operational. We will be taking every health precaution in terms of disinfecting the bus after runs, tracking attendance, and maintaining seating plans. Masks are mandatory for middle and secondary students when riding the bus. The District encourages private transportation where possible in order to reduce the density on the buses.
- Public/parent access to schools will be limited and by appointment only.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party use of schools (ie. community sports groups) will not have access to schools at this time.

Over the next couple of weeks, there will be further communication from the District as well as from your home school with specific information on the first week of school. We continue to work with our unions, parent groups and Indigenous groups to complete our planning. As you read through the [K-12 Restart Plan and Public Health Guidance](#) documents, we would also like to get your feedback in terms of your questions and areas that need further clarification. Please complete this [survey](#) (action item) to provide your feedback. Please also check our website ([www.prn.bc.ca](http://www.prn.bc.ca)) and Facebook feed for ongoing updates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Petrucci". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Petrucci  
Superintendent of Schools