



School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson)  
**Parkcrest Elementary School**

2170 Parkcrest Ave., Kamloops, BC V2B 4Y1  
Ph: (250) 554-2368 • Fax: (250) 377-2224

January 7, 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support during this week as school staff prepared to welcome all students back to school on Monday, January 10th for face-to-face learning. The Province provided guidance to schools and school districts on implementing extra precautions to keep schools safe for students, teachers and staff. I would like to share the enhanced safety measures that will be in place when students return to school Monday:

- School events and assemblies will be virtual;
- Adult-only meetings will be virtual, whenever possible;
- Visitors to the school will be limited to those who provide direct benefit to student learning and wellbeing (e.g., teacher candidates, meal program volunteers, etc.);
- Spectators at school events, including sporting events, are not permitted;
- School classrooms will be reconfigured to maximize the amount of personal spacing available;
- Recess times are staggered and students will use designated doors to reduce the congestion in hallways and shared spaces during transition and break times;
- Restricting the sharing of food among students (e.g birthday cupcakes). Nothing homemade to be shared in classrooms.

These enhanced safety measures are layered upon these existing preventive measures that continue to be in place in our school.

- Completing the [daily health checklist](#) or using the [K to 12 Health Check App](#)
- Ensuring students and staff stay home when they are sick or have symptoms
- Using available space to spread out, and to respect others personal space
- Students (K-7) and staff wearing a mask when in schools or riding a bus
- Regular and effective hand washing and/or sanitizing
- Cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces at least once a day

Our school's [Communicable Disease Prevention Plan](#) has been updated to include all enhanced safety measures. Please take the time to review the amended plan and continue to support and follow the health measures that are being implemented in schools to keep schools safe for students, teachers, and staff.

## **Continuity of Learning Plans**

Staff also spent this week developing our school's [Continuity of Learning Plan](#) to support ongoing student learning, should there be unusually high absenteeism of students and/or staff in our school. Our school's Continuity of Learning Plan provides information to parents/caregivers about what learning support would look like should there be a need to move away from face-to-face instruction. The following four scenarios of providing learning are documented within the plan.

- Scenario One: Face-to-Face Programming with Enhanced Safety Measures (our current scenario)
- Scenario Two: Hybrid Learning (Face-to-face and online or paper programming)
- Scenario Three: Partial or Full Functional Closure of School
- Scenario Four: Online Learning

Please read through our Continuity of Learning Plan to understand the specifics of each scenario and the learning that you can expect to be provided to your child.

Our Continuity of Learning Plan is intended to support students who are away from school for an extended absence due to self-isolation because of sickness, are presenting with symptoms or our school needs to functionally close because high absenteeism of staff prevents the safe operation of the school.

## **School Exposure Notifications and Contact Tracing**

Currently, the Ministry of Education is working with the Ministry of Health, and local medical health officers, to determine the process needed to communicate exposure risk to parents/caregivers due to the different characteristics of the Omicron variant. Once this information is known, I will share promptly with our school community.

I appreciate that this January's unique start has been challenging in many ways. I do, however, want to reassure you that both your child's safety and education continue to be the top priorities of the school staff at Parkcrest.

As always, please feel free to reach out to us by phone or email if you have any questions or concerns, so that we can help support you and your child's learning.

Respectfully,

Catherine Gorman and Joanne Leggett