

SCHOOL RE-START GUIDE

SCHOOL:

Cowichan Secondary

SCHOOL CONTACT:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We acknowledge that for thousands of years the Malahat, Lake Cowichan, Quw'utsun, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, & Lyackson Peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where we now live, work, and play. We are committed to ensuring a healthy educational environment for our xe'xe'smun'eem, our sacred children, that is based on science and inclusive of traditional knowledge and history.

DISTRICT INFO:

[Web Resources and Information](#)

PROVINCIAL INFO:

[B.C.'s Back to School Plan](#)

Describe the Learning Group model in the school.

- Currently we are in phase two of the government plan, in accordance to ministry guidelines our learning groups do not exceed 120 students and staff
- Quarter system: students will have one class in the morning and one in the afternoon for approximately 10 weeks. There will be four quarters throughout the year. Blocks will not rotate throughout the quarter, they will remain in Block A, Block B order
- Learning groups (cohorts) will be organized in order to minimize contact following health and safety guidelines. The learning group will be made up of students and staff who will remain together throughout the quarter
- At the end of the quarter the course will be completed and students will start a new quarter with new courses
- The quarter system will limit the number of people each student or staff member comes into contact with. Public Health officials indicate this will reduce the risk of transmission and will also ensure quicker contact tracing if necessary
- As students and staff will remain together during the entire quarter learning period there will be a greater opportunity for academic support as well as social and emotional support
- The quarter system will allow the school to manage a limited number of close contacts while still offering a large variety of courses so that students can meet their unique needs and stay on their selected graduation pathway
- We have designed our model in mind that should we need to go back to phase 3, we will be able to do so with as little disruption as possible.

What specific Health and Safety Plans are in place for students and staff?

Please see below for the School District and Provincial Health and Safety guidelines that Cowichan Secondary is following to create the safest learning environment at school.

- Every staff member and student must complete a Daily Health Self-Assessment. Should a student have Covid symptoms at school we will follow health and safety guidelines and parents will be contacted to pick up their child
- Limited entry into schools by those other than staff and students. Families/public will be required to pick up and drop off students outside the building; any tasks that can't be completed remotely will be done via scheduled appointment only
- Limiting the number of contacts students have throughout the day by implementing a learning group model
- Health and Safety orientations with staff and students in order to introduce, teach and practice safety measures. Safety Orientations for Staff September 8th,9th (no students), students attend for Safety Orientations beginning on the 10th of September
- Gr 10's only all day on Thursd September 10th, ALL STUDENTS Friday September 11th
- Enhanced cleaning, disinfecting frequency and protocols; every class will be equipped with hand sanitizer and cleaning /disinfecting supplies
- Every student and staff member will be provided with 2 reusable masks. Masks are required in all high traffic areas such as buses, hallways and in situations where students cannot maintain physical distance and are in close proximity to a person outside of their learning group. Staff and students may also choose to wear a mask within their learning group When wearing a mask students and staff must still seek to maintain 2 metres physical distance from those outside of their learning group
- Students must avoid crowding, congregating or gathering with people outside of their learning groups even when masks are worn.
- Controlled traffic flow in hallways with the help of signs, markers and training as well as separate designated entrances, exits for students, staggered lunch, break and dismissal times
- No use of lockers in order to facilitate flow and limit high frequency touch surfaceay

What changes to course scheduling have been made?

- Moving from a semester system (where students have 4 classes a day with possibly 4 different teachers and groups) to a quarter system (where students have 2 classes a day, limiting number of teacher and student contacts). Our teacher leadership team has already met and all teachers will be working to ensure the best use of 2 hour and 45 minute long classes. Each class will have a scheduled break. Alongside of that, the teachers will be planning the flow of their classes with the additional minutes in mind.
- Students will receive their 1st quarter schedule on their first day of school and will remain in these cohorts for this quarter (no changes to schedules for the first quarter). Student schedules for the remainder of the year will be given to students during the 1st quarter. This will give our counselors time to make adjustments for the remainder of the year should they be necessary. We will meet with our grade 12 students to be certain their schedules allow them to continue on their chosen path to graduation. We are in difficult times, with added constraints. Unfortunately students will not get all of the courses they had chosen and we sincerely apologize.
- September 8th and 9th staff will be doing safety orientations (no students)
- September 10th: Grade 10's attend all day.
Parents/Guardians will receive notification of their child's morning block teacher. When students arrive on their first day they will head directly to their block A morning class. Staff will be available to assist students as needed. Physical distancing must be adhered to while arriving and making their way to class. Please ensure that daily health check and hand hygiene have been performed before arriving at school.
- September 11th: ALL STUDENTS attend.
Parents/Guardians will receive notification of their child's morning block teacher. When students arrive on their first day they will head directly to their block A morning class. Staff will be available to assist students as needed. Physical distancing must be adhered to while arriving and making their way to class. Please ensure that daily health check and hand hygiene have been performed before arriving at school.

Describe the plan to support students with diverse abilities.

- Students will continue to access support from case managers, EA's and district itinerant staff as needed
- Students will be part of the cohort system
- Individual needs will be discussed and plans put in place with the student's case manager and support team
- Where necessary, learning spaces will be organised to allow for physically distancing
- Our Learning support team and administration is available for guidance and support to help in the transition back to school. They will be reaching out in the coming weeks to review safe return to school plans. We encourage families to contact school administration should you have any questions on extra supports that your child requires.

How will the school keep parents and students informed?

Parents will be informed through email, the school website, the Cowichan T-Birds App, and Facebook .

The most detailed plan and information will be emailed to parents as well as placed on our Cowichan Secondary Website.

All Covid related diagnoses are handled by the Public Health Officer. Should an event occur, they will handle all aspects of alerting those who need to take any additional measures and privacy is ensured.

Parents and students are welcome to contact the school through phone (250 746 4435) or email (cssheadsecretary@sd79.bc.ca) with specific questions.

What are families' options if being in-school is not their decision?

Every situation and circumstance for this decision is unique to the family and student and requires a discussion with our support team of teachers and administrators to come up with the best solution. Our priority is for your student to continue to access education; we want our students to continue at Cowichan Secondary. After reviewing your child's school plan for September start-up, if you are not intending on sending your son/daughter to Cowichan Secondary School please contact the school to discuss options.

According to the Provincial Health Officer and the Centre for Disease Control, most children who are immunocompromised can return to in-class instruction where safety measures are in place (<http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19-easing-social-distancing-IS-children.pdf>). Should your child(ren) have a severe immune compromised condition, please consult with your School Principal and your medical practitioner.

(<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/priority-populations/children-with-immune-suppression>).

Families seeking an alternative to in-class instruction, and who do not wish to register their child in a distributed learning program or homeschooling, are encouraged to provide a doctor's note with specific information regarding the medical needs of the child which will assist the school team with planning for the continuity of learning.