

OOP FOI PREM:EX

From: Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX
Sent: April 27, 2020 1:00 PM
To: Aaron, Sage PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Premier Materials | Covid Response Update 2020-04-23
Attachments: 219918 Bullets-PJH Update on Covid-19 Response K-12 Sector.docx; 0422 Education Stages Scan.docx

Hi Sage,

In the PJH bullets there is the staged approach we discussed on the phone. We are on the cabinet agenda for May 6th.

From: Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX
Sent: April 23, 2020 11:46 AM
To: Dinicol, Sam GCPE:EX ; Farmer, Leila GCPE:EX ; Jones, JJ GCPE:EX ; McColl, John-Michael FIN:EX ; Robinson, Jon PREM:EX
Cc: Hockin, Amber PREM:EX ; Talbot, Sarena MCF:EX ; Gunn, Paula MCF:EX
Subject: FW: Premier Materials | Covid Response Update 2020-04-23

Hi team,

We are briefing the Premier today on our COVID response. You've seen most of these materials already, but I thought you'd like this summary package.

We will also be talking about research into other education jurisdictions as we begin to plan for the future.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Veronica

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
INFORMATION BULLETS**

DATE: April 15, 2020
CLIFF #: 219918

PREPARED FOR: Premier John Horgan – **FOR INFORMATION**

SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 response efforts in the K-12 sector

BACKGROUND:

- As a strategy to reduce the transmission of Covid-19, in-class instruction for most students in the K-12 sector was suspended by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) on March 17, 2020.
- School districts and independent school authorities have worked to determine how best to deliver ongoing learning opportunities to students in this situation.
- The following Guiding Principles were established for school districts and independent school authorities in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 1. Ensure a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.
 2. Provide the services needed to support the children of our essential workers.
 3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
 4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.
- The Ministry of Education has been providing regular updates and guidance to the K-12 sector, including:
 - Twice weekly COVID-19 information bulletins from the Deputy Minister to all partners outlining new information, guidelines and responses to questions;
 - Sector-focused Q/A document updated weekly to address questions being raised by school districts and independent schools;
 - Integrated Planning Framework to support consistency in local planning and response efforts – covering a range of topics from health and safety to childcare/ESWs to governance/communication and learning;
 - Public-facing FAQ document aimed at parents and the general public, refreshed weekly to address new questions being put forward for response; and
 - PHO and CDC approved Health and Safety Guidelines for the K-12 education sector, updated as new direction from the PHO is provided.

INFORMATION BULLETS:

School districts (SDs) and independent school authorities have implemented plans in accordance with the Guiding Principles. A short summary of successes and challenges are provided below:

1) Successes:

Public Schools

- SDs have increased custodial practices to maintain safe work environments
- SDs have implemented health and safety protocol for staff and are making mental health and wellness resources available to staff
- More than 75,000 meals/food packages are being delivered on a weekly basis to over 16,000 families.
- Over 23,000 devices have been loaned or are ready to be loaned to students and staff to support learning and SDs are working with Telus and other local internet service providers to get some families access to Wi-Fi at home.
- Where technology is not a viable option to support learning at home, SDs are preparing paper-based resources and offering them for both pick-up and delivery for parents.
- Most parents in the province have been contacted by their classroom teacher and learning opportunities are underway in the majority of SDs.

Independent Schools (287/364 independent schools responded to EDUC's survey)

- 280 schools are now delivering continuity of learning to students
- 86 schools providing childcare to the children of Essential Service Workers (ESWs)
 - 1280 spaces offered to ESWs with 494 spaces filled
 - 422 spaces made available for vulnerable students with 230 students receiving service
 - 12 schools are providing ESW childcare services to families that do not attend the school for a total of 37 spaces
- 752 meals (breakfast, lunch, hampers, etc.) being provided per week by 25 schools

2) Challenges:

Public Schools:

- SDs are reporting rapid increases in food insecurity in families
- SDs are reporting that many parents are feeling overwhelmed with the pressures of supporting learning at home during this time, especially parents at home with high-needs children (i.e. physically disabled, severe learning disability and/or complex behavioural)
- Only two SDs have initiated some face-to-face support for high needs students with disabilities and many are indicating difficulty in securing support from either teachers or support staff for this work

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
INFORMATION BULLETS**

- Although SDs have created 2,278 spaces for the children of Essential Service Workers (ESWs) to date – most have not been willing or able to expand their programs to all ESWs due to lack of support from staff (local teachers and support staff unions)
- Most SD staff are not working from schools (working from home) creating a challenge to support ESWs and special needs/vulnerable students in school settings

Independent Schools:

- 34 of schools in the process of standing up childcare services for ESW/vulnerable students (i.e. not yet operational)
- 87 of schools not able to provide services to ESWs (for any reason, e.g. lack of staffing, lack of facility, potential health issues for school staff etc.)

In-Class instruction Recovery Plan

- The return of in-class instruction will be an important first step for the economic recovery of British Columbia as students back in school will allow parents to get back to work.
- What we do know is COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children estimated at 1-5% worldwide and there is no documented evidence of child-to-adult transmission. This lower Covid-19 risk in children may allow in-class instruction to return sooner without added risk of transmission.
- The Ministry of Education has developed a staged approach to the return of in-class instruction which can be implemented in lock step with health emergency measures.
- The response by Education can also be implemented differently in regions and schools depending on the outbreak and transmission risk identified by the PHO.

Covid-19 in Pediatrics report:



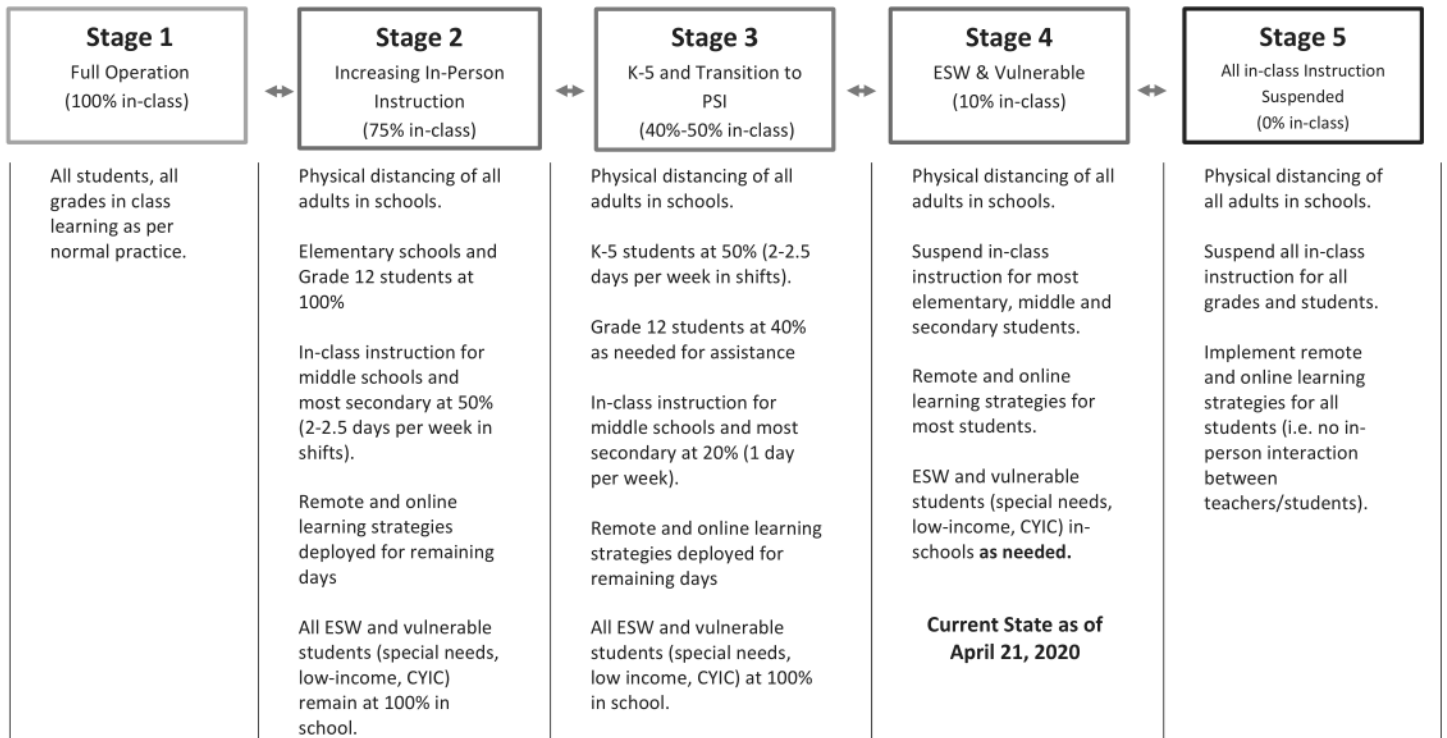
COVID-19 in
Pediatrics 1 Page Surr

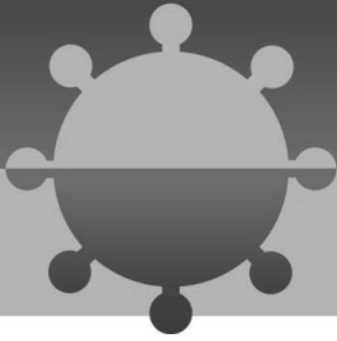
EDUCATION – COVID-19 RESPONSE

K-12 Operating Principles

The strategies and actions needed to support educational programs and operations of schools during COVID-19;

- are supported by research and evidence of COVID 19 epidemic in BC and the impact on school-aged children;
- are informed by practices in other jurisdictions who have also contemplated returning to in-class instruction in recent months;
- can expand and contract to align with the health emergency measures as directed by the PHO; and
- can be applied provincially, regionally and/or on an individual school basis depending on the status of COVID 19 outbreak and the level of risk presented in individual schools and communities.





Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



HOW YOU CAN SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Take care of others by taking care of yourself.

Wash your hands, don't touch your face, and stay home if you are sick.

Stay at Home and Physically Distance

Stay at home whenever you can. Maintain 2 meters distance from those outside of your household.

Caring for Children with COVID-19

April 3, 2020

By Sarah Silverberg (MD) and Laura Sauvé (MD, MPH, FRCPC)

Key Points

- COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children estimated at 1-5% worldwide.
- The majority of cases in children are the result of a household transmission by droplet spread from another family member with symptoms of COVID-19.
- Children who are infected with the virus and develop COVID-19 have milder symptoms if any, and very few become critically ill.
- Children with COVID-19 illness typically have a fever, dry cough and fatigue. Some may also experience nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea.
- Unlike adults the rates of transmission are unknown. There is no documented evidence of child-to-adult transmission. There are no documented cases of children bringing an infection into the home, from school or otherwise. This is likely the result of the limited number of cases and the mild symptoms in those who do have COVID illness.
- There is no conclusive evidence that children who are asymptomatic pose a risk to other children or to adults.
- There is no evidence indicating children of HCWs are at increased risk of COVID-19 infection than children of non-HCWs. This is likely due to the careful monitoring of HCWs for symptoms and follow-up of their household contacts.
- Like adults, children with any common cold, influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms should stay home and isolate for 10 days following onset of symptoms and until symptoms resolve.
- More research is needed to fully characterize infection, transmission and COVID-19 disease in children.

COVID-19 Illness in Children

1. Case counts of SARS-CoV2 infection and COVID-19 illness in children are low, representing only 1-5% of confirmed cases worldwide.
2. The severity of disease in children appears to be lower, with only a few documented cases of severe illness and/or death. Younger infants (those <1 year of age) have the highest rates of severe or critical illness.
3. Children are more likely to have few, if any symptoms. Up to 32% of children have been asymptomatic with presumed or confirmed COVID-19.
4. Typically, children with COVID-19 have a fever, dry cough and fatigue. In rare cases, dyspnea and respiratory compromise appear after a week of disease progression. These are associated with systemic symptoms including malaise, restlessness, and poor appetite.



Ministry of Health



BC Centre for Disease Control

If you have fever, a new cough, or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.

Non-medical inquiries (ex. travel, physical distancing): 1-888-COVID19 (1888-268-4319) or text 604-630-0300



5. Some children experience GI symptoms, including abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea.

Children and Infectivity

1. The majority of children with COVID-19 have a positive household contact.
2. The incubation period in children is approximately two days, with a range of 2-10 days (similar to adults). The mean incubation period between household exposure and pediatric symptom onset is approximately 1 day longer than observed in adult cases.
3. Children typically have negative swabs within 6-22 days of symptom onset, but often not until 2 weeks' time. Children have been found to have high viral loads despite mild symptoms, with prolonged shedding in nasal secretions.
4. As a result of the lower symptom burden, the rates of asymptomatic transmission or transmission with mild symptoms are unknown.
5. There is no documented evidence of child-to-adult transmission of SARS-CoV2. This is different than outbreaks of other viruses such as Influenza where children have been found to have a high rate of infection outside of the household and significant inter-generational transmission.
6. It is unlikely the children of health care workers have more frequent COVID-19 than other children, however, no evidence is available.

Recommendations for care for children with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19

1. Children are at a lower risk of developing COVID-19, including developing severe disease. Most children who have COVID-19 can be cared for at home, with supportive care performed by their parents.
2. Children under 1 year of age and those who are immunocompromised or have pre-existing pulmonary conditions are at a higher risk of severe disease.
3. As for all members of the community at this time, children should physically distance themselves as much as possible outside of the family unit.
4. Children, and particularly young children, who develop fever, cough or shortness of breath should be evaluated, as influenza as well as other viral illnesses are still circulating in B.C. Symptomatic children should be cared for using droplet and contact precautions (with airborne precautions if aerosol generating medical procedures are needed).
5. While evidence is limited at this time, children with COVID-19 may shed the virus for longer than adults.



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April 3, 2020
Caring for Children with COVID-19 by Dr. S. Silverberg & Dr. L. Sauvé



Jurisdiction Scan – Re-Entry to Schools
 April 22, 2020

Location	Schools Open - Y/N Pending	Date Closed & Re-opened	Source	Approach (i.e. age categories, staggered return, partial return, full return and potential timing)?	Factors considering for K-12 students re-entering school (for example: transportation and social distancing rules, mental health, summer school, etc.)?
USA					
USA – Pacific North West	N	Closed: Mid-March	Washington Post AZ Government OR Government Health & Safety KDVR News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WA - Schools closed statewide until April 25. School facilities may continue to be used for preparation of food service, childcare and, to provide other social services that are not possible to be provided off-site. MI - schools to close for remainder of year unless social distancing orders can ease AZ - extension of school closures through the end of the 2019-2020 School Year. Encourages schools to continue to provide educational opportunities OR – schools closed for rest of school year CO – reopening schools increasingly unlikely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easing of social distancing orders
California	N	Closed: Mar 23	EdSource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible return in the fall Return to ‘normal’ life when there is herd immunity and a vaccine is available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return reorganized in “radically” different ways to protect staff, students and families Challenge to maintain physical distancing: implement staggered schedules, reform school activities that happen in large groups Deep sanitation and massive deep cleaning in schools and beyond Changes in school schedules need to be negotiated with labour leaders
INTERNATIONAL					
Denmark	Y	Closed: Mar 11 Open: April 15	CNN Danish Police Politi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reopening primary schools Phase 1: preschool – gr 5 Before and after school care for students up to gr 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all students can sit at least 2m apart Staggered arrival times, routes, breaks and lunch time School yard split into sections with barrier tape New hygiene measures – wash hands upon arrival and every 2 hrs

**Jurisdiction Scan – Re-Entry to Schools
April 22, 2020**

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special needs from all grades when individual local councils consider it safe based on direction from health authorities • Upper secondary education will remain physically closed, except for students in 3rd grade of upper secondary, 2nd grade of higher prep exam course, classes for students with ASD, and students taking school-leaving exam this summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact surfaces (sinks, toilet seats and door handles) are disinfected 2x/day • All students with high-risk families can stay at home at parents' choice • Employees must follow general recommendations of health authorities • Ministry of Children and Education to lay out detailed rules • Discussions on how students can take exams • General proficiency marks will replace exam marks
Austria	N			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible mid-May opening if there is not a surge in infections after ease in lockdowns (small businesses, hardware and gardening outlets) 	
Germany	Pending	Closed: Mar 13 Open: May 4	The Guardian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staggered reopening: students in final 2 years of high school and final year of primary returning first 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing measures to remain in place until at least May 3
Switzerland	Pending	Closed: Mar 13 Open: May 11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 stage plan to gradually reopen businesses and schools • Companies providing personal services to open first • 2-3 week gap, schools reopen May 11 • 3rd stage: reopen secondary, vocational/universities from June 8 	
Sweden	Y	Never closed	Financial Times CBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has kept schools open for children up to age 16 • Closed university and higher education colleges • Recommend secondary and universities switch to distance learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools need to stay open to provide childcare for health workers • Swedish HA says it doesn't believe that school kids are transmitting the disease to a great extent that the costs of closing schools outweighs the benefits of keep them open • Some concerns for teachers at risk; children are carriers •

Jurisdiction Scan – Re-Entry to Schools
April 22, 2020

Norway	Y	Closed: Mar 12 Open: Apr 20		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-school and K to open Apr 20 Apr 27 – reopen grade 1-4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children under age of 3 will have to be in groups of 3 under 1 adult supervision Children between 3-6yrs can stay in groups of 6
Czech Republic	N	Closed: Mar 12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apr 20 students begin phased return to colleges and schools; mainly 1:1 consultation High school grad and entry exams held after June 1 High schools not expected to fully open until Sept 1 	
France	Pending	Closed: Mar 13 Open: May 11	MSN.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposing to offer summer school Progressive opening as of May 11 of creches, schools, colleges and lycées French children return to school in staggered year groups Ages 5-11 to go back first; following week older kids in selected years at secondary schools All classes back by May 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 15 students allowed in each class Primary kids in small groups (<10)
New Zealand	Pending	Closed: Mar 25 Open: Apr 29	Education.govt.nz (Government Education Covid website) Control measures to deliver COVID-19 strategies: Education sector evidence NZ Herald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for a hybrid model of online learning and in-class instruction Prioritizing children of essential workers Has 4 levels of alerts in place (currently in level 4 = complete lockdown); April 27, government will move to level 3 (restrict) Alert 3: safe for early learning centres and schools for children up to year 10 (gr 9) to open All young people in years 11-13 will continue to learn at home Children and young people who can stay at home, should 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In advance of reopening allow for adequate time for property inspection and adequate maintenance and cleaning; at least 1 week The two key public health principles that support Alert Level 3 are first to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to limit the number of possible contacts people have if they do get infected to make it easier to rapidly stop further spread. PPE not necessary for school environment Children, young people and staff at greater risk encouraged to stay at home; anyone who is sick should remain at home

**Jurisdiction Scan – Re-Entry to Schools
April 22, 2020**

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Education setting up a process for parents to register if they want their kids to return to school; working with sector on a process for this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer students on the school grounds Stay within their small groups Some teachers will be teaching at school while others provide distance learning Restrictions on numbers of children are necessary for physical distancing (1m insides and 2m outside), transport constraints and limited resources Also implement contact tracing and hygiene requirements Children to remain with same group each day with no mixing between groups Public health advice is to limit school bubble to 10; could increase to 20 once up and running Expansive list of public health measures being put in place in schools
Singapore	N	Closed: April 3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved to home based learning for all grades starting week of April 3 Providing limited services for children of parents who must work or can't find childcare 	
Taiwan	Y	Closed: Early Feb Open: Feb 27	CBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Took an additional 2 weeks off at winter break 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In advance of pandemic increased mask and alcohol sanitizer production Increased fines for raising prices of medical supplies and spreading misinformation Set cleaning standards for public transportation and other areas Take temperature and report to school each morning before arriving Kids wear masks all day, except at lunch Plastic barriers on desks Opening all windows and air vents Suspended some sports Set guidelines for the suspension of classes in the future

Jurisdiction Scan – Re-Entry to Schools
April 22, 2020

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools with 2 or more confirmed cases must close immediately
Tibet	Y	Closed: Early Mar Open: End of Mar		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staggered re-opening time across provinces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some students/schools still using online learning
CANADA					
ON	N		CTV News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ford saying schools will likely be among the last to open as covid restrictions are loosened Relying on online learning as main learning platform 	
QC	N	Open: possibly before May 4	CBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong public reaction against opening schools prior to May 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs agreement of public health No risk for children and teachers PHO said reopening schools would mean kids who not at high risk of developing complications from covid19 would participating in natural immunizations i.e. herd immunity
AB	N		Global News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will reopen schools when other segments of the economy reopen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider wearing masks in schools since challenging to keep 2m apart Emphasize regular handwashing Keep anyone who is ill at home
MB	N	Closed: Mar 13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Apr 21: PHO advised all in-classroom learning be suspended indefinitely for this school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classes will resume when public health officials advise to do so
NB	N	Closed: Mar 13	Global News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apr 2: Education Minister stated barring drastic improvement schools will remain closed for rest of school year As of Apr 15: slow growth of confirmed Covid cases has started to develop a plan to ease restrictions 	
NS	N		NovaScotia.ca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All public schools closed until at least May 1 	

**Jurisdiction Scan – Re-Entry to Schools
April 22, 2020**

NWT	N	Closed: Mar 22	NWT Education, Culture and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools closed for remainder of school year 	
Nunavut		Closed: Mar 17	Nunavut Dept. of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools closed for remainder of school year School staff report to work Apr 21 to prepare learning packages 	
PEI		Closed: Mar 16	PEI Government News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools closed until at least May 11 Apr 22: Province preparing ease back plan 	
SK		Closed: Mar 17	SK Government News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apr 22: Announcement of reopen plan (@6:02pm) 	
YK	N		YK Government Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close in-class instruction for remainder of school year. Learning at home to resume April 16 	

- *As of March 18, 107 countries had implemented national school closures*