



## St. Matthew's Elementary Restart Plan – September 2020

**\*Plans are under Ministry review and subject to change**

### Topics:

- Reopening Schools
- Enhanced Cleaning
- Staying Home if Sick
- Daily Health Checks
- Learning Cohorts
- Hand Hygiene
- Physical Distancing
- Staggered Recesses
- Playground Use Before and After School
- Masks
- A Few Things to Consider...
- Frequently Asked Questions

### REOPENING SCHOOLS

- According to current worldwide data, COVID-19 has a very low infection rate in people 19 years old and under, and especially low in children under the age of 10.
- Serological tests have confirmed that in B.C., less than 1% of all children tested have been COVID-19 positive.
- Studies show that most COVID-19 cases in children originate from symptomatic adult family members, not from peers. Even in family bubbles, adults appear to be the primary spreaders of the virus.
- Children who do test positive for COVID-19 usually have milder symptoms, such as a low-grade fever, dry cough, and gastrointestinal issues.

### ENHANCED CLEANING

- The cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces will occur at least twice every 24 hours (once during the school day).
- This is in addition to a general school cleaning

### STAYING HOME IF SICK

- The BCCDC guidelines for schools are firm. If a student, staff member or any other adult has any symptoms of a cold, influenza, COVID-19, or any other infectious respiratory disease, they must not come to school.
- Students, staff members and any other adults must stay home and self-isolate if they have:
  - Symptoms of COVID-19, travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days and identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak



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### DAILY HEALTH CHECKS

#### PARENT & CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

Daily screenings start at home. Each day ask these questions:

- Does my child have the symptoms of a common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease?
- Has my child been outside Canada in the last 14 days?
- Has my child been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak?
- If the answer is yes to any of these questions, you must keep your child at home, self-isolate, and seek care from a health-care provider.

### LEARNING COHORTS

- A learning cohort is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout the school year and who primarily interact with each other. Learning cohorts were recommended by the Provincial Health Officer to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19
- Compared to other public settings, schools have a relatively consistent set of people accessing the building. Learning cohorts further reduce the number of interactions between students and staff.
- This helps with contact tracing and limits interruptions to learning if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in a learning group
- Each individual classroom will be considered a separate *Learning Cohort*.
- Examples of *Learning Cohorts* at St. Matthew's: The Kindergarten classroom teacher, Education Assistant and all students are considered as a separate *Learning Cohort*. The Grade 5 classroom teacher, Education Assistant and all students are considered a separate *Learning Cohort*.

### HAND HYGIENE

- Students will be asked to hand sanitize any time they enter the school or exit the school
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer (the school will provide hand sanitizer) frequently

### PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Any student or adult not part of a Learning Cohort will be required to practise physical distancing: stay at least 2 metres apart
- People in a learning cohort do not need to stay 2 metres apart but they must limit physical contact.
- Classrooms will be set up to promote spacing between students where possible.



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### STAGGERED RECESSES

- In order to provide students with sufficient and safe spaces to play during recess, our morning and lunchtime recesses will be staggered with only 4 classes out at a time
- MORNING RECESS: (Group A) 10:15 am – 10:30 am
- MORNING RECESS: (Group B) 10:30 am – 10:45 am
- LUNCH RECESSES: (Group A) 12:05 pm – 12:30 pm
- LUNCH RECESSES: (Group B) 12:35 pm - 1:00 pm

### PLAYGROUND USE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

- The school playground area (Big Toy, Grass Field, Gaga ball pit) will be closed before and after school until further notice

### MASKS

- Elementary school students are not required to wear masks.
- Parents and students have the right to choose to wear a mask or not; respect will be shown for those who choose to wear a mask
- Supervision volunteers will be asked to wear a mask while supervising students or traffic

### A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Food is not to be shared
- Students will use individualized supplies as much as possible
- There will be a minimization of visitors to the school (do not drop off lunches, forgotten homework)
- Extra-curricular sports (volleyball, cross country) are on hold for now
- Out-of-school field trips will not occur for now
- Physical barriers (plexiglass) will be placed in the school office, school library, Learning Support Rooms)
- School assemblies will be recorded; School Masses will only have one class attending at a time



## **St. Matthew's Elementary Restart Plan – September 2020**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **1. What will Morning Drop Off look like?**

When students are dropped off in the morning (either using the “Drop Off Zone” or walking their child to school) they will be guided towards their particular line up zone. These line up zones will be particular to each classroom. Students will also be required to stay in their line up zone until their classroom teacher comes. One classroom's line up area will be separated at least 2 metres from other classroom's line up zones. Students will not be allowed to wander/run around like in previous years. Once Parents/caregivers have dropped off their child they are asked to move away from the lineup zone areas.

#### **2. What will Pick Up look like?**

Teachers will walk their students outside to their particular line up zone and will ensure students stay within their classes' particular line up zone until a parent/caregiver picks up their child.

#### **3. Will my child be given a mask to wear?**

Yes, masks will be made available to any student who wants to use one.

#### **4. What are the protocols around the use of the bathroom?**

Students will be trained in the first couple of days of school about protocols for bathroom use. Students waiting to enter the bathroom will have designated spots to stand on, until someone comes out of the bathroom.

#### **5. What will recess look like?**

We will be dividing the playground area into 4 zones. Each class will be assigned a particular zone to play and stay in. Every day classes will rotate to a different zone. (The 4 zones are: Grass Area (A), Grass Area (B), Big Toy/Gaga Ball Pit Area and the, Parking Lot)

#### **6. What is being done to ensure proper air ventilation in the school?**

The air filters in the school have all been changed and our operations manager has set things so that the air is circulating continuously in the school.