



Central Okanagan
Public Schools

Together We Learn

January 7, 2022

Central Okanagan Public Schools families,

We look forward to welcoming you back to in-person learning on Monday, January 10, and we hope you had a restful holiday to safely reconnect with family and friends. The last week has been spent planning for the impact of the rapid increase of COVID-19 cases on education, and we must all work together to maintain safe and healthy schools. Your school principal will let you know the adjustments to your school's onsite safety plans, so you know what to expect on Monday.

According to the Provincial Health Officer and BC Center for Disease Control, the Omicron variant's transmissibility means that as many as one third of people in our community can get sick over the coming weeks. As always, schools will reflect the impact of COVID-19 on our community.

When large numbers of staff or the school community get sick, we may need to temporarily close schools to in-person learning that day and shift to online learning in the following days. **In the case that schools are unable to safely supervise all students due to staff absences, families will need to collect their children promptly.** While there are procedures in place to ensure student safety as such a situation emerges, circumstances will change quickly.

As we manage potential changes to the delivery of education, including suspensions of in-person learning, we ask that families stay vigilant for school and district communication over the coming weeks. Email and/or text alerts will be sent as soon as staff determine the need to suspend in-person learning and that students need to return home or be picked up.

We will continue to inform families of any changes as soon as possible. We will remain adaptable to ensure the continuity of learning, with health and safety always our priority.

Please follow public health orders, get vaccinated if you are eligible, and keep children at home if they feel sick (use the [K to 12 Daily Health Check](#) to check for symptoms). The uncertainty of the weeks ahead will be difficult for all of us, but we've had to be flexible before. What we do know is that we can reduce the impact on everyone's mental health with kindness, patience, and hope.

Together, we will get through the coming weeks. Together, we can make sure students get the in-person learning they need. Together, we learn.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kaardal,
Superintendent of Schools/CEO