



Restart Plan

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and to not harm you, plans to give you a hope and future.”
Jeremiah 29:11

OBJECTIVE

To continue to work towards the mission and vision of DCS which provides Christian education that aligns with the BC Restart Plan while ensuring safety and care of our students and their families.



Duncan Christian School (DCS) has been working extensively to create a plan that provides a **safe** environment for our community. The Ministry of Education is currently directing schools to plan for a Stage 2 of their 5 Stage Framework to return in September. The Ministry’s goal is maximizing in-class instruction for all students within the revised public health guidelines to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. The priority is to safely return students to in class instruction to increase peer interaction, peer support and connection, decrease mental health impacts, and to prioritize learning.

STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3
Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: N/A Middle: N/A Secondary: N/A 	Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 60 Middle: 60 Secondary: 120 	Learning Group Size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: 30 Middle: 30 Secondary: 60
DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable 	DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable 	DENSITY TARGETS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% for all schools
IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Full-time all students, all grades	IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Full-time instruction for all students for the maximum instructional time possible within cohort limits. Self-directed learning supplements in-class instruction, if required.	IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION: Full-time instruction for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children of essential service workers students with disabilities/diverse abilities students who require additional supports In-class instruction for all other students for the maximum time possible within cohort limits. Self-directed and remote learning supplements in-class instruction.

Public Health Measures



Chapel

Chapel is a foundational practice of DCS that will continue, with some changes. Learning groups will have the opportunity to lead chapels and stream them to other groups. The ideal is that we worship together (synchronously) and hear the sounds of chapel bouncing through the hallways.

In the event of a Community Outbreak

If a staff member or student at DCS is confirmed by Island Health as positive for COVID-19, Island Health will work with the principal to determine what actions should be taken, including if any staff or students who have been in contact with that person need to self-isolate. Island Health in consultation with the DCS and the principal will determine how best to respond.

A parent or guardian of a student who has to self-isolate will consult with administration on the plan to continue learning during the self-isolation period.

It is extremely important to contact the school if anyone in your family has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, or have COVID-19.

Visitors

The school will be limiting the number of visitors to the school. Priority will be given to those supporting student learning and wellbeing. Visitors must complete a health check before entering and will check in at the office and provide a name and phone number for contact tracing purposes. Parents are encouraged to drop their children off outside the school building. The in-classroom parent volunteer program is on hold at this time. However, if you would like to volunteer from home we would love to have you on board. Masks are mandatory for all visitors.

Mass Gatherings

The Provincial Health Officer's Order for Mass Gathering events to not exceed 50 people does not apply to regular school activities. However, they may not all be in the same place and must practice physical distancing guidelines.

Community Events

Community events fall under the order of Mass Gathering Events. Unfortunately this will have an effect on our school community events such as the Welcome Back BBQ and important all school assemblies and celebrations. We are working hard to offer activities to the community in creative ways.



Limited visitors

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19. DCS with direction from Island Health and the BCCDC's guidelines have enhanced our cleaning procedures in the school. DCS janitorial contractor, Clean Sweep Janitorial, has been in frequent communication with Island Health to ensure cleaning products are used and enhanced cleaning takes place throughout the day. New daytime janitorial services will provide cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces twice daily.

Traffic Flow

Floor markings and posters to direct traffic flow will be used to help navigate staff and students in the school. Learning groups will have washrooms dedicated to them in both the elementary and high school buildings.

Physical Barriers

DCS is installing clear barriers in both of school building administrative office areas to help protect our office staff

Environmental Measures



Learning at DCS



Learning Groups

In order to implement a return to full-time in-class instruction in September, the Provincial Health Officer has recommended the use of cohorts (**Learning Groups**) to reduce the number of close, in-person interactions.

A Learning Group is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout the school year and who primarily interact with each other.

What is a Learning Group?

A Learning Group is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout the school year or portion of the year. Learning groups reduce the number of in-person, close interactions a person has in school without requiring physical distancing to consistently be practiced.

Why Learning Groups?

Reducing the number of in-person, close interactions an individual has in a day with different people helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Elementary Learning Groups

In our PreK-7 elementary school, a Learning Group can be composed of up to 60 people. This includes teachers specific to the group. Learning groups are smaller in elementary schools due to the recognition that younger children are less able to consistently implement personal measures such as hand hygiene, reducing physical contact and recognizing and articulating symptoms of illness. The learning groups in the elementary school will be divided into: PreK, Kindergarten & Grade 5, Grade 1&2, 3&4, and Grade 6&7

Secondary Learning Groups

At our grade 8-12 high school, a learning group can be composed of up to 120 people including the teachers specific to the group. Learning groups are larger in secondary schools due to the increased ability of children in that setting to be able to consistently minimize physical contact, practice hand hygiene, ensure physical distance where necessary and recognize and articulate symptoms of illness. Learning Groups in the high school will be: Grades 8&9 and grades 10-12.

Flexible Learning

DCS is not a distributed learning (DL) school. We are not permitted to offer online courses, however we remain committed to provide flexible learning options to those who qualify. Please make an appointment with Peter Terpstra if needed.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing requirements vary between stages 2, 3 and 4:

STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physical distancing (2m) for staff and for middle and secondary school students when interacting outside of their learning groupsPhysical distancing (2m) for elementary students when interacting outside of their learning groups while indoors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physical distancing (2m) for staff, middle and secondary school students at all times.Physical distancing (2m) for elementary students when interacting outside of their learning groups while indoors.	

Learning Groups



Interacting with Learning Groups

DCS will attempt to minimize the number of adults (staff and others) who interact with learning groups they are not a part of as much as is practical to do so while supporting learning and a positive, healthy and safe environment. If interaction is necessary, personal protective equipment will be used.

Expanded and Extra Curricular



Athletics

As a member of BC School Sports, we adhere to the guidelines provided. They will be advising schools in late August on the return-to-play plans. DCS will participate in whatever capacity allowable which includes regular season play if that goes forward. If not, DCS will work to modify extra-curricular sports programs to encourage and improve skill development and team play. Students will only be able to participate within their Learning Group.

Drama Program

Our DCS high school drama program will continue in a different format. The grade 10-12 learning group will be invited to participate in small-group, in person drama classes. Unfortunately at this time we will not be able to have an in person public performance in the spring but are considering alternative options

Busing

Duncan Christian School has a long term ongoing contractual relationship with Mid Island Bus Services, a local school bus company to ensure all students will continue to receive this service, with Mid Island Bus holding itself to high cleaning standards.

Busing



Personal Measures



Stay Home When Sick

If you are sick, you are required to stay home. Dr. Bonnie Henry has called on us to “be kind, be calm, and be safe” and we want to follow that. Think not only of your own health, but the health of others.

Hand Hygiene

DCS supports staff and students to find ways like singing a song to wash hands thoroughly and for the appropriate amount of time. Washing hands with plain soap is the most effective way to reduce spread of germs. When soap and water is unavailable, students will have access to hand sanitizer.

Child Health Assessment

It is the responsibility of the parent to assess their child(ren) daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza or any other infectious respiratory disease. If a child has any symptoms, they must not come to school.

Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough or worsening of chronic cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Muscle ache

While less common, symptoms can also include:

- Stuffy nose
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Dizziness, confusion
- Abdominal pain
- Skin rash/ discoloration of fingers/toes

Sharing Food

Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unwashed utensils, or anything else. **We will also ask parents to not bring in any birthday cake or treats** as DCS will not be able to pass them out. This is specifically noted in Health and Safety Communications.

Staff of other Adult Self-Assessment

Staff members and other adults must also self assess daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school.

COVID Symptoms Developed at School

<i>If a Student Develops Any Symptoms of Illness</i>	<i>If a Staff Member Develops Any Symptoms of Illness</i>
<p>Parents or caregivers must keep the student at home</p> <p>IF STUDENT DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL:</p> <p>Staff must take the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately separate the symptomatic student from others in a supervised area. 2. Contact the student's parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible. 3. Where possible, maintain a 2-metre distance from the ill student. If not possible, staff should wear a non-medical mask or face covering if available and tolerated, or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth. 4. Provide the student with a non-medical mask or tissues to cover their coughs or sneezes. Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene. 5. Avoid touching the student's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva). If you do, practice diligent hand hygiene. 6. Once the student is picked up, practice diligent hand hygiene. 7. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated and any areas recently used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas). <p>Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.</p>	<p>Staff must stay home</p> <p>IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT WORK:</p> <p>Staff should go home as soon as possible.</p> <p>If unable to leave immediately:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Symptomatic staff should separate themselves into an area away from others. 2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. 3. Use a tissue or mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait to be picked up. 4. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the staff member was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).
<p>The threshold for reporting student and/or staff illness to public health should be determined in consultation with the school medical health officer</p>	
<p>Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should not return to school until they have been assessed by a health-care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved</p>	

Protective Equipment



K- Grade 5

Non-medical masks are not recommended for elementary school students due to the increased likelihood they will touch their face and eyes, as well as require assistance to properly put on and take off their mask (requiring increased close personal contact from school staff).

Grade 6-7

Grade 6-7 students will be expected to wear masks when in hallways and common areas inside the elementary school. The exception for this is in the gym within their own Learning Group where they may remove their mask.

Masks

As directed by the Provincial Health Officer non-medical masks are required to be used in situations where a person cannot maintain physical distance and is in close proximity to a person outside of their Learning Group or household. Staff and Students in grades 6-12 will be required to wear masks in public spaces such as hallways. Students are not required to wear a mask within their classroom setting or within designated Learning Group spaces.

Staff and Other Adults

Staff and other adults are required to wear a non-medical mask, a face covering or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) in high traffic areas such as buses and in common areas such as hallways, shared spaces or anytime outside of their Learning Group whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained (e.g., itinerant teachers/specialists interacting with multiple learning groups). Staff can also wear a mask, a face covering or a face shield within their classroom or Learning Group if that is their personal preference

Grades 8-12

Students are expected to wear a mask when outside their Learning Group. This means shared spaces such as hallways and common learning areas. Masks are not required in the washroom as Learning Groups have designated facilities. A student is welcome to wear a mask at all times if it makes it more comfortable.

Contact Information: If you have any questions regarding any of the information given, please connect Interim Principal Peter Terpstra (pterpstra@duncanchristian.com)