

Dear ASD-S Families,

The province announced yesterday that schools will be returning to in-person learning under 'Level 2' of the Winter Plan ([K-8 plan](#); [9-12 plan](#)) on Monday for grades K-8 and Wednesday for grades 9-12. We are very pleased to welcome all students back into our schools and below are some of the measures that will help ensure learning can continue safely and in-person for our students and staff.

### **Reminders- Safety Measures**

Students should have at least 2 clean masks with them everyday. Masks are required to be worn at all times, including outside and on the bus. The only exception is when students are seated for eating and drinking, or at K-8 when classes are outside, not mixing with other classes. Families are asked to remind their child that masks must be worn properly, which means covering both the mouth and the nose. This has been an issue noted in the higher grade levels.

We are encouraging students to remain diligent about handwashing and sanitizing. Teachers will continue to ask students to clean and disinfect desks and materials at middle and high schools.

It is important that families monitor their children for [symptoms](#) daily. If one new or worsening symptom develops, a student is not permitted to attend school until they have a negative rapid test (POCT). If a student has a constant and recurring symptom, for instance seasonal allergies, they may continue to attend school after they have received a negative POCT.

If your child tests positive with a POCT or public health PCR test :

- Have your child [Isolate](#) immediately.
- [Notify](#) your **school principal** and all close contacts.
- [Report](#) your positive test to Public Health (if POCT rapid test was used).

We will post all school notifications of positive cases daily to our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) on the ASD-S website. On this site, you will also find important Public Health information on testing positive, reporting, and isolating.

### **Learning Expectations**

While we understand our students may have some anxiety returning to school, please note that teachers will no longer be providing at-home learning and, unless ill or isolating, students need to attend school in-person. Schools will not be providing materials and assignments to students who choose to stay home.

With the increase in individuals having to self-isolate with household members or testing positive themselves, we are anticipating an impact on our teaching and support staff. It is important that we keep our schools open with in-person classes. For this reason, we are securing additional supply staff and the District, along with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, are arranging for qualified staff currently in non-classroom roles, to cover for absent teaching staff.

While our goal is to keep schools open for in-person learning, staffing shortages due to COVID-19 is a possibility and could result in an Operational Day for a class, a grade, or a whole school. We will do our best to provide as much advanced notice of this as possible, however it is important that families have a plan for child-care in the event that in-person learning is temporarily interrupted.

Students in grades 9-12 are asked to bring their devices to and from school, daily. If there is an Operational Day, we wish to have as many opportunities for students to connect on-line as possible.

As we head back to in-person learning, we know there are still some unknowns, but we are looking forward to having students return.

Again, we thank you for your cooperation and support as we work through the pandemic together.

Zoë Watson

Superintendent