

January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021



**School District 19**  
(Revelstoke)

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Our staff were very happy to welcome students back to school this week after the winter break. I hope that you and your family were able to enjoy the break in whatever form that took.

I would like to update you on how the current COVID situation in Revelstoke has had an impact on our school community. We had our first school *exposures* at Revelstoke Secondary School during the last week of school in December (9 in total). “*Exposure*” is the term Interior Health uses when a person who has tested positive for COVID was known to be in the school during their infectious period. Previous to the winter break, we were one of only 11 school districts of 60 in the province that had not yet experienced a school exposure. So while this news was not unexpected, it reminds us all of the importance of the measures taken in school, and in the community, to reduce the risk and minimize the spread of the virus.

The steps that we have taken from the beginning of the year were well set out in the [Provincial Health Guidelines](#). We are currently reviewing all district protocols to ensure they meet or exceed Provincial Health Office recommendations. We will continue to reinforce and refine those measures, including:

- Regular hand washing routines and avoiding touching your face.
- Physical distancing to the greatest extent possible with a focus on classroom spaces.
- The required use of facemasks at the secondary level in the hallways and supported use of masks in classrooms (although not mandatory in accordance with provincial guidelines).
- Maintaining routines that reduce traffic flow in the hallways and entrances to the school.
- Providing support for students who are unable to attend on a regular basis.

There are a number of ways you can support these efforts including:

- Talk to your children about each of the guidelines and how they are personally working to meet them.
- Use bus transportation as a back-up to alternate means of getting students to school to reduce contact on the buses.
- At the secondary level (RSS) support your student’s efforts to leave the school for lunch to reduce indoor contact.
- Complete a daily health check and do not send children to school with any signs or symptoms.

Despite the considerable challenges facing us all this year, our children and young adults continue to benefit from rich school experiences thanks to our active parent groups and dedicated staff.

As always please connect with your school principal or me directly ([mhooker@sd19.bc.ca](mailto:mhooker@sd19.bc.ca)) with ideas, questions, or concerns.

I will continue to provide updates as needed. In the meantime, you can find all of our links to Provincial COVID information on our website at <https://www.sd19.bc.ca/COVID-19-information/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Hooker', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mike Hooker  
Superintendent of Schools