



# ALWIN HOLLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have been working hard to get our building ready and safe for all students to return in just a short time. Below, we have described some of our procedures that will be in place at Alwin Holland. Hopefully this will help answer some questions and provide a brighter insight into what the school year will look like. As always, there will be questions so please do not hesitate to call or email us if you need to.

Alwin Holland Administration

<p><b>Cohorts</b></p>	<p>Cohorts will be made up of a maximum of 60 students and staff, and each cohort will be assigned a colour. Where possible, we will provide a colored wrist band to help identify members of cohorts. We have arranged our cohorts so that each cohort will have one younger and one older class. This will maintain our buddy system, allow for cross-grade activities and learning, and facilitate lunch helpers in classrooms.</p> <p>Everyone is expected to minimize physical contact. <b>Within a cohort, students are not required to physically distance.</b> There may be instances where cohorts mix. If this is inside, students will be required to physically distance from the other cohort and staff will help facilitate this. When outside, students are permitted to play together, but are required to minimize physical contact.</p> <p>Some adults will work with multiple cohorts (administration, librarian, learning assistant, educational assistants, prep teachers, etc.). In this situation, staff will maintain physical distance from the students, and/or wear a mask or shield.</p>
<p><b>Masks</b></p>	<p>Staff and adults will be required to wear a mask in common areas when physical distancing is not possible. Staff in their own cohort do not need to wear a mask with students. Students in elementary are not required to wear a mask at any time, although if the parent would like the student to wear one, that will be respected. If you would like your child to wear a mask, please consider if your child will be able to tolerate the mask and whether or not it will distract them from their learning.</p>
<p><b>Recess/Lunch</b></p>	<p>We will be having a staggered recess/lunch schedule as we did in June. This will lessen the number of students on the playground and allow for less traffic in the hallways during transition times. Teachers will lead their classes at the beginning and end of breaks. Lunch period monitors will facilitate the transition between play/eat time at lunch. See link below for schedule.</p> <p><a href="#">Alwin Holland Cohort Schedule - Recess/Lunch</a></p>
<p><b>Daily Health Assessment</b></p>	<p>Parents will be required to perform a daily health assessment on their children before attending school. <b>No child who is sick is to come to school.</b> By answering the questions on the form, you will be able to gauge whether your child is healthy and able to come to school. Any sign of illness, and students are not to come to school. Instructions of further steps if this occurs is also provided on the form. Staff will also be required to complete this assessment daily. These do not need to be handed in or collected.</p> <p><a href="#">Daily Health Assessment</a></p>

<p><b>If a Child Gets Sick at School</b></p>	<p>If your child displays any signs of illness at school they will be required to go home. Parents will be contacted immediately and will have to come and get their child promptly. You will be provided with an informational letter that will inform you on how to contact Northern Health if needed. The school will not be phoning Northern Health for any students going home ill.</p> <p><a href="#">If a Child Gets Sick at School Procedure</a></p>
<p><b>Pick up and Drop off Times</b></p>	<p>Pick up and drop off times will be the same for all students. Students will be required to physically distance indoors and minimize contact outdoors if they are interacting with other cohorts. We will need to teach students these protocols and practice them those first few days. Please have a conversation with your student so that this is an easier transition.</p> <p>Teachers will meet their students outside each morning and drop them off outside each afternoon. As per BCCDC guidelines, we are not to allow any adults (other than staff) into the buildings, therefore you will not be able to drop your child off/or pick them up at their classrooms. Teachers will transition them between outside and the classroom safely and orderly. Inside day procedures will be discussed with staff and shared at a later date.</p>
<p><b>Protocols for Common Areas and Hand Washing Directions</b></p>	<p>There will be instances where cohorts may interact with each other. <b>If this is outdoors, students will have to minimize physical contact with each other. If it is indoors, students will have to physically distance from students in other cohorts.</b> As we know, hand washing is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of any illness. Students will be trained on how and when to wash their hands. Each classroom is equipped with their own sink and soap station and teachers will incorporate hand washing breaks into their daily schedules. Each student will wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds several times throughout the day. Practicing proper handwashing procedures at home will help set your child up for success upon returning.</p> <p><a href="#">How to Wash Your Hands</a>  <a href="#">When to Wash Your Hands at School</a></p>
<p><b>Orientation information</b></p>	<p>The first day of school for Grades 1-6 will be Thursday, September 10th*. Teachers and staff will be in on September 8th and 9th, being trained on all the safety protocols and preparing for when students arrive. The first few days of school will be focused on teaching and practicing these new safety protocols and routines with students. Some students have not been in a school since March, and it may be a harder transition for them than normal. Teachers and staff will be ensuring that the transition goes as smoothly as possible for everyone, focusing on the safety protocols, getting to know each other and their cohorts, and moving slowly back into the school routines.</p> <p>*Kindergarten has a gradual entry planned and has been posted on our website and Facebook.</p>
<p><b>Additional Information</b></p>	<p>You can find further information on the district website: <a href="#">SD60 District Website - COVID19</a>, as well as BC's Back to School Plan from the Ministry of Education: <a href="#">BC's Back to School Plan</a>. The BC Centre for Disease Control also provides great information regarding the return to school and COVID19: <a href="#">BCCDC Return to School Information</a>.</p>

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