



# School District No. 60

PEACE RIVER NORTH

10112 - 105 Avenue, Fort St. John, British Columbia V1J 4S4 Phone: (250) 262-6000 Fax: (250) 262-6046

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Parents:

It was great to welcome students back to school on September 10th. Our District has seen a 96% student return, which is very encouraging. We are also supporting some families who need a bit more time or who have enrolled at the Key Learning Center.

The K-12 School Plan is intended to effectively manage and prevent transmission of COVID in the school environment. Nevertheless, schools may be affected in the future. Northern Health and the School District have prepared for this possibility and will be able to manage it through public health protocols. Below is more specific information on what happens if there is a confirmed case in a school.

This is also a reminder that the Daily Health Check form has been updated (attached). It provides new guidance on when you should contact a health provider if you are feeling ill. A doctor's note is not required for students or staff to return to school.

**Northern Health will contact you directly in case of any school exposure involving your child.**

If you or your child have been identified as a COVID-19 positive case or close contact, be assured that Northern Health's Public Health team will contact you directly and provide further instruction.

**COVID-19 school notification process:**

If a student or teacher receives a confirmed positive COVID-19 test result, Northern Health follows a rigorous protocol:

- Contact tracing is initiated to determine how the individual was infected and who they were in close contact with.
- Northern Health identifies and notifies close contacts who may be at an increased risk, and advises them regarding self-isolation and monitoring for symptoms.
- Only Northern Health can determine who is a close contact. Learning groups, friends or other connections may not be determined to be a close contact.
- Northern Health staff works closely with the school and school district throughout the case and contact management process to maintain close communication with the school community.
- School closure will rarely be a necessary measure to protect children. With preventive measures in place (i.e. cohorting, screening, etc.), risk of transmission in school is significantly reduced.

Thank you for your support and patience as we navigate this pandemic together,

Sincerely,

Stephen Petrucci  
Superintendent



School District 60 PRN  
**Daily Health Check**

| Please perform a daily health assessment prior to entering the School / Building<br><small>* This checklist does NOT need to be submitted. This is a self directed assessment.</small> |   |            |    |
|--|---|------------|----|
| 1. Key Symptoms of Illness*  | Do you have any of the following new key symptoms?                  | Circle One |    |
|  | Fever   | Yes        | No |
|  | Chills  | Yes        | No |
|  | Cough or worsening of chronic cough                                 | Yes        | No |
|  | Shortness of breath   | Yes        | No |
|  | Loss of sense of smell or taste                                     | Yes        | No |
|  | Diarrhea  | Yes        | No |
|  | Nausea and vomiting   | Yes        | No |
| 2. International Travel  | Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?   | Yes        | No |
| 3. Confirmed Contact   | Are you a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19? | Yes        | No |

If you answered “YES” to one of the questions included under ‘Key Symptoms of Illness’ (excluding fever), you should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started. If the symptom improves, you may return to school when you feel well enough. If the symptom persists or worsens, seek a health assessment.

If you answered “YES” to two or more of the questions included under ‘Key Symptoms of Illness’ or you have a fever, seek a health assessment. A health assessment includes calling 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner. If a health assessment is required, you should not return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and your symptoms have improved.

When a COVID-19 test is recommended by the health assessment:

- If the COVID-19 test is **positive**, you should stay home until you are told by public health to end self-isolation. In most cases this is 10 days after the onset of symptoms. Public health will contact everyone with a positive test.
- If the COVID-19 test is **negative**, you can return to school once symptoms have improved and you feel well enough. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more. Re-testing is not needed unless you develop a new illness.
- If a COVID-19 test is **recommended but is not done** because you choose not to have the test, or you do not seek a health assessment when recommended, and your symptoms are not related to a previously diagnosed health condition, you should stay home from school until 10 days after the onset of symptoms, and then you may return if you are feeling well enough.

If a COVID-19 test is not recommended by the health assessment, you can return to school when symptoms improve and you feel well enough. Testing may not be recommended if the assessment determines that the symptoms are due to another cause (i.e. not COVID-19).

If you answered “YES” to questions 2 or 3, use the **COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool** to determine if you should seek testing for COVID-19.

**A health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor’s note) is not required to confirm the health status of any individual.**