

BEAUFORT DELTA DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL



Aklavik, Ft. McPherson, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tsiigehtchic, Tuktoyaktuk, Ulukhaktok

August 31st 2021

Families of Beaufort Delta Students,

Welcome back! We are so excited to work with you in 2021-22. We are reopening BDDEC schools safely for the 2021-22 school year, but COVID-19 is still a concern. The Delta variant can spread quickly, and children under 12 are not yet able to be vaccinated.

Here are a number of key topics related to reopening issued by the Department of Education Culture and Employment for the GNWT and the Beaufort Delta Divisional Education Council.

Masks

For JK – Gr. 12 students and school staff, **masking is mandatory in all school settings and on school buses.**

Physical distancing

For the 2021-2022 school year, physical distancing in classrooms for students in Grades 7-12 will no longer be required.

Infection prevention and control

The requirements for infection prevention and control throughout school buildings, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in settings in the school, outside of the classroom, will **remain in place** in the 2021-22 school year.

This means schools will continue to do the following:

- Teach, supervise, and enforce strong healthy respiratory practices and hand washing.
- Ensure regular handwashing and access to hand sanitizer for all staff and students.
- Ensure that hand-washing facilities are always properly stocked with soap and paper towel, and that tissue, hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol based), cleaning supplies and waste receptacles are made available and maintained in an enhanced capacity.
- Enhance custodial services and regular cleaning schedules to a minimum of twice daily.

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- This includes cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces more frequently (i.e. desks, keyboards, screens, remotes, light switches, door handles, bathrooms, etc.)
- Safe delivery of lunch or food programs and water.
- Provide only bagged, pre-packaged, plated or single serve foods.
- No communal food (i.e. buffet style or shared items).
- Students may only use personal, clearly labelled water bottles.
- Students and staff are to continue using personal supplies of materials and equipment, sharing is not permitted.
- Encourage only non-physical greetings.
- Maintain space and protocols for isolation rooms should students develop symptoms.
- Continued use of directional signage throughout the school is encouraged to assist in maintaining distancing and avoiding congregation of large groups in high traffic areas.

Screening for symptoms

Daily monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 is vital. Parents/guardians must monitor their children daily for symptoms of COVID-19 before sending them to school by using the [Daily Symptom Screening Tool for Students, School Staff and Early Childhood Care Workers.](#)

If you or your child are feeling sick or unwell, stay home. This is the single most important thing you can do to protect your child's classmates and keep students at school. We are asking this of our staff as well.

Students and staff will not be permitted to attend school if they have symptoms.

Each school has a dedicated isolation room where a student can safely isolate if they begin to show symptoms of COVID-19 while at school. The student will be accompanied by a staff member and will be kept safe during this time. The parents or guardians of a student with symptoms will be notified immediately of their child's status and asked to pick them up from school as soon as possible to take them for medical assessment.

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Extracurricular activities, gatherings and events

- Indoor drama classes, choir, assemblies, intramurals, tournaments and high-contact sports are on hold.
- It is recommended to take learning and additional school activities outdoors whenever possible. This can include classroom activities, physical education, recess, lunch, and snack time.
- It is highly recommended that classroom bubbles are maintained as much as is practicable.

Visitors to the school, pick up and drop offs

- Visitors inside the school will be strictly limited to reduce the number of people this population of students are exposed to. Specifically at BDDEC schools parents/guardians are asked to drop off students on the playground. Teachers and Support Assistants will be on site to greet students and families. Support Assistants and teachers will escort students inside the school.
- This means there will be some limitations and protocols in place for pick up and drop off times. Please connect with your child's school for additional information.
- Inviting Elders into the school should be carefully considered. Elders are a more vulnerable population. It is recommended that Elders invited to the school be fully vaccinated and that interactions and learning with Elders take place outdoors and in well ventilated settings.

Grading and report cards

Student assessment, evaluation and reporting processes will return to pre-COVID-19 conditions. This means that every JK-12 NWT student will receive grades and report cards in the 2021-2022 school year according to existing school policies and scheduled dates. Schools will host parent/family teacher (3 way) conferences via telephone and Zoom to start the year.

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As always, I will make myself available to the parents and guardians with any specific reopening questions. I would also encourage you to speak with our hard working team of Principals and Vice Principals. Together we will continue to work with you to ensure we keep the students of the Beaufort Delta safe, happy and learning.

Mahsi Quyanainni Quana

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