

Delta Christian School

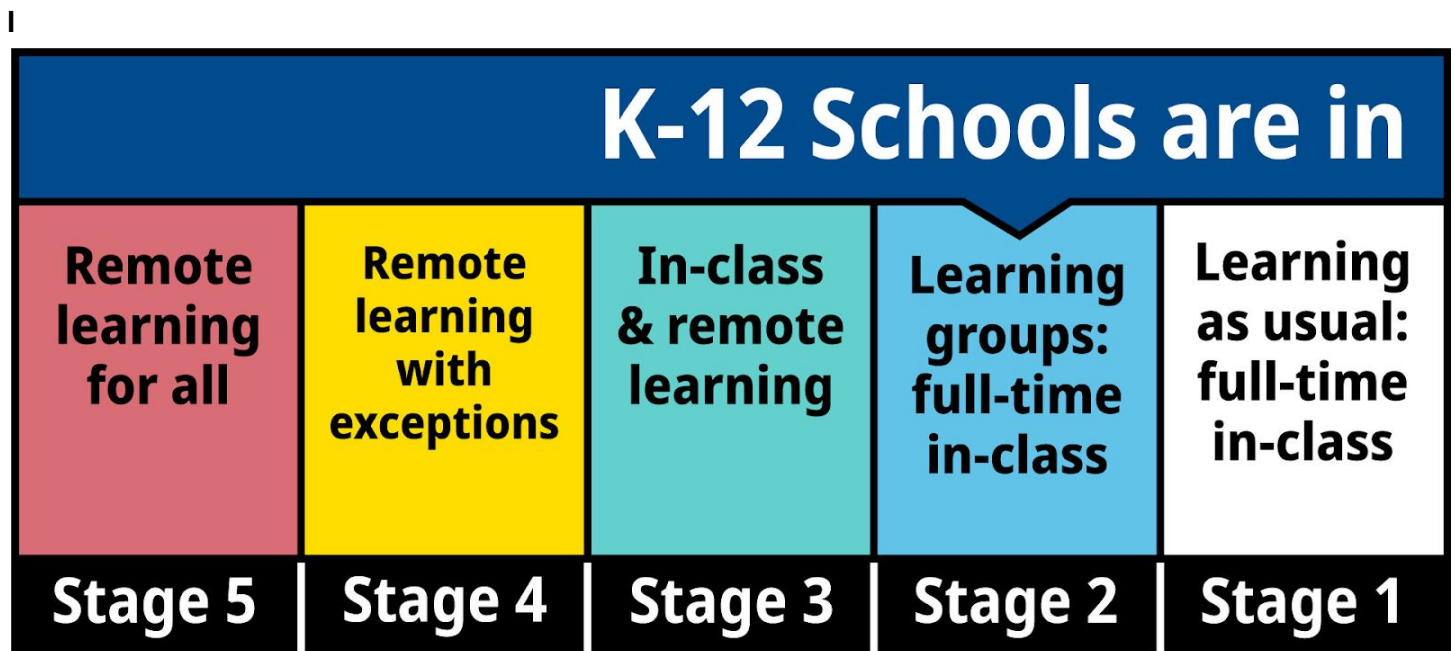
Stage 2 Return to School Guide (Parents)



September 2020
Care | Connection | Competencies



v. August 24, 2020



Stage 2: Schools will enter Stage 2 in September 2020.

Learning Group Size

- Elementary: 60
- Middle: 60
- Secondary: 120

Density Targets

- Not applicable

Instruction Method: Full-time instruction for all students for the maximum instructional time possible within learning group limits.

COVID-19 Resources

- [Operational Guidelines for School Districts and Independent School Authorities](#)
- [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#) (BC Centre for Disease Control)
- [BC's Back to School Plan](#) (Ministry of Education)
- [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#) (WorkSafe BC)
- 2020-2021 DCS Parent Calendar (subject to change upon further direction from the Ministry of Education). Please see [the linked calendar](#).

1. First Day of School and Orientation Week

As with schools across the province, DCS students will be returning to school on **Thursday, September 10**. Students will be dismissed at 12:00PM on Thursday and Friday of the first week as students and staff acclimate to being back in the classroom. This will serve as an orientation week for staff and students. These extra two days of preparation (Tuesday and Wednesday) will provide educators and staff extra time to adjust to their new routines, finalize plans for learning groups, review health and safety protocols, and confirm lesson plans that align with the new normal in schools. When students arrive on Thursday, September 10, a significant amount of time will be spent on informing students about their classes and learning group, practice their new routines and familiarize themselves with how to move safely from their classroom to outdoor and common areas of the school.

Note to **Kindergarten Families**: Due to the delayed start to the school year, half-day gradual entry will be extended to Friday, September 25.

2. Instructional Delivery

As directed by the Ministry of Education, Delta Christian School will only be offering on-site learning opportunities to students through Stage 2. Families who are opting for a home-based/online learning program will need to explore other options with public or independent distributed learning schools. We encourage you to have a conversation with Mr. Young prior to making any decisions in this area. Arrangements for continuity of learning will be made with families with children who have extended illness through this period. Students who will be absent beyond three days will have a weekly package prepared by the classroom teacher to be completed at home.

Under the School Act, a person must enrol in an educational program between the ages of 5 and 16. Across all Stages, parents/caregivers have the choice to enrol their child in an educational program offered by a public or independent school (including "bricks and mortar" schools, distributed learning schools, or through blended programs) or to register their child for homeschooling prior to the start of the school year. With homeschooling, parents/caregivers are responsible for designing the educational program for their child and must register their child with either a public or independent school.

3. Bus Transportation

School bus transportation services will continue to be offered as usual for Richmond and Delta. Masks are not required for elementary-aged students in Stage 2. It is highly recommended that grade 6 and 7 students wear a mask on the bus. Students will be assigned individually to seats as much as possible, while siblings will be seated together.

The following instructions have been provided to school (August 16, 2020):

- Buses should be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with BCCDC guidelines
- Buses should be loaded from back to front and offloaded from front to back
- Keep seating consistent and assign seats where possible. Each student should have their own seat unless sharing with a member of their household
- No student is required to wear a mask if they do not tolerate it
- Masks aren't recommended for elementary students on buses because they are more likely to touch their face and may need help putting them on and taking them off
- Schools and school districts can consider a transparent barrier to separate the driver from the students
- Schools and school districts should keep up to date passenger lists to share with public health if contact tracing needs to occur
- Students should clean their hands before they leave home, when they leave school, and when they get home

4. Dolphin Pods (Learning Groups)

Students will be assigned to our usual homeroom classes and these classes will be grouped together in [learning groups](#) of up to 60. At DCS, we will be referring to these learning groups as "pods", as dolphins (our mascot) travel in pods. Interaction amongst students will be limited to those in their assigned pod

whether in the classroom or on the playground. For example, a pod of no more than 60 students and adults may include two classes who may do cross-class activities together or share the same play area at recess. Each pod will be identified by a type of dolphin, such as the Spinner Pod or the Bottlenose Pod.

We will be recognizing the positive behaviour of pods when we see positive interaction between students and the following of safety rules in the upcoming year with "Pod Points".

*Class lists will be communicated to families on **Friday, September 4.**

5. Staggered Drop-Off and Pick-Up Times

- a. Arrival - Families will be assigned one of two drop-off windows based on last name. Students will be required to go through their designated entrance to their classroom to wash their hands. Each Dolphin Pod will have a designated entrance. Please refrain from dropping off your child(ren) before the arrival time as supervision will not be provided.
- b. Departure - A staggered pick-up schedule will be implemented based on last name. Students will be required to go directly to the designated Kiss & Go pick-up area or meet their parents in the back field for immediate departure. After-school play on the school premises will not be permitted.
- c. Designated Entrance and Exit Doors
 - i. K-1 - East doors (former Wind & Tide access)
 - ii. 2-3 - West doors (by outdoor hockey area)
 - iii. 4-5 - Central doors (by outdoor basketball courts)
 - iv. 6-7 - Intermediate Staircase (by main gate)

6. Staggered Recess and Lunch Breaks

Students will have a morning recess break and a lunch break. For each of these breaks, half of the dolphin pods will go out to play first and the other pods will stay in to eat. The pods will then switch. Morning recess and lunch breaks have been extended to ensure adequate time for handwashing and transitions. Afternoon recess will not take place this year to create more time for the extended morning and lunch breaks.

7. 2020-2021 Parent Calendar

- a. Please see [the linked calendar](#).

8. Health & Safety Measures

Delta Christian School will be adhering to all safety protocols as established by the Ministries of Health and Education and WorkSafe BC. We have formed a Joint Health & Safety Committee made up of staff and medical professionals that will continue to direct the school in this area.

Through increased government funding, Delta Christian School will be adding mid-day cleaning to high touch and shared areas. In addition, a thorough cleaning of the facility will be done at the end of each day. This includes (Ministry of Education, August 16, 2020):

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least twice every 24 hours (once during the school day). This is in addition to a general school cleaning, which should happen at least once a day.
- Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty
- Use common cleaning and disinfectant products
- Limit frequently-touched items that aren't easy to clean
- Empty garbage containers daily
- Clean and disinfect laminated materials daily if multiple people touch them

Enhanced Hygiene Measure

- Students are each encouraged to bring a personal-sized hand sanitizer to be carried around in their pocket
- Mandatory handwashing upon entrance into the building, after returning from recess and washroom, and before departure at the end of day
- Minimizing shared toys and materials
- Increased access to hand sanitizer stations at main entrances

- Increased signage around the building reminding students of physical distancing and hygiene practices
- Restricted use of water fountain and encouraging use of refillable bottles
- Guidance to staff from a Registered Nurse

Daily Health Screening

Parent & caregiver responsibilities

Daily screenings start at home. Ask these questions:

- Does your child have the symptoms of a common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease?
- Has your child been outside Canada in the last 14 days?
- Has your child been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, you must keep your child at home, self-isolate, and seek care from a health-care provider.

Symptoms of COVID-19

Has your child shown any of the following symptoms in the past 48 hours? If so, your child will need to stay home and will be restricted from entering the building. Please be vigilant in monitoring the health of your children and family members. Thank you to all parents for recognizing the importance of keeping children at home if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms. Students who are showing signs of any of these symptoms at school will be sent to the medical room for immediate pick-up to go home (within 30 minutes).

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses including the flu and common cold. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (see below)
- Chills
- Cough or worsening of chronic cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Muscle aches

While less common, symptoms can also include:

- Stuffy nose
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Dizziness, confusion
- Abdominal pain
- Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes.

Fever: Average normal body temperature taken orally is about 37°C. For more on normal body temperature and fevers, see HealthLinkBC's information for [children age 11 and younger](#) and for [people age 12 and older](#). Infants less than three months of age who have a fever should be assessed by a health care provider. Children have similar symptoms to adults, but are less likely to have fever, shortness of breath or cough. COVID-19 causes mild illness in the majority of cases in children. COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild to severe. Sometimes people with COVID-19 have mild illness, but their symptoms may suddenly worsen in a few days.

What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19

Testing is recommended for anyone with cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, even mild ones. For more information on testing and where to go for testing, visit the [Testing page](#).

The [B.C. COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) is also available for anyone that develops symptoms and can be used to help determine if you need further assessment or testing for COVID-19. Testing is especially important for groups that are more vulnerable to complications from COVID-19, or people who care for these individuals. Some symptoms can also be signs of other conditions. If you are unsure, contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1. If someone is having severe difficulty breathing, severe chest pain, having a hard time waking up, feeling confused or losing consciousness, you should seek emergency medical care by calling 9-1-1 or going to your nearest emergency department.

If you develop symptoms, you will need to [self-isolate](#) while you wait for your test results so you do not potentially spread illness to others. Those who get diagnosed with COVID-19 will need to self-isolate for at least 10 days from when their symptoms started. For more information on what to do if you have COVID-19, if you think you may have it, or believe you may require medical care, visit the [If you are Sick page](#).

Older people and people with a weakened immune system or underlying medical conditions are considered at higher risk of severe disease. For more, see information for [Priority populations](#).

Any student, staff or other person within the school who has symptoms of COVID-19 or travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days or was identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate.

What if someone in my household or bubble has COVID-19 symptoms?

- Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household has cold, influenza, or COVID-19-like symptoms, provided the student/staff is not sick
- It is expected the symptomatic household member is seeking assessment by a health-care provider

What if my child has allergies?

- Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies, or other COVID-19-like symptom that are related to an existing condition, can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal
- If you notice a sudden change in the severity or type of symptoms your child normally experiences, you may want to keep your child at home and seek advice from a health-care provider

Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in a Learning Group or at School

If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school, [protocols](#) are in place.

- If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school, they may be given a non-medical mask and will be separated from their classmates or colleagues
- The individual's parent or guardian will be contacted to discuss next steps
- Custodial staff will clean and disinfect the areas the person used
- Schools will immediately inform public health of a potential case
- Public health will then:
 - Reach out and identify any potential cases
 - Get in touch with close contacts
 - Recommend 14-day isolation if necessary
 - Provide follow-up recommendations if necessary
- Schools will provide learning support to students required to self-isolate
- Together, schools and public health officials will determine if suspending in-class learning is necessary

You will be notified if your child has been in contact with a COVID-positive person. If that happens, your child is required to self-isolate.

9. Volunteer Hour Tracking

As we are looking to minimize the number of visitors to the building and will not be hosting large school events, volunteer opportunities will likely be less this year and hours will not be tracked. Service volunteer cheques will not be cashed, but the opportunity will be given for families to use this as a donation to the school. There will still be ways for parents to volunteer, but in limited and different ways. Please contact Courtney Mawhorter with any questions about volunteering at courtney@deltachristianschool.org.

10. Masks (from Ministry of Education)

The wearing of masks is optional for all DCS K-5 students at all times and for the majority of time for grades 6-7 students. Elementary school-aged (K-5) students are not required to wear masks under the Ministry of Education guidelines. Grades 6-7 students will be required to wear a mask as they move through **communal areas** such as hallways outside of their designated pod areas. Masks are highly recommended for grades 6-7 students on the bus. Grades 6-7 students will not be required to wear a mask in the classroom, when interacting within their own pod, or when outdoors. Staff will be required to wear masks when in high traffic areas (hallways, school bus) or when 2m distancing is not possible with students outside their pod. Everyone must treat each other and those wearing masks with respect. If a student or staff member gets sick at school, they will be asked to wear a mask while they are being assessed by a school nurse or preparing to go home. [Review COVID-19 mask use information](#) from the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC).

11. Extended Absences Due to Illness and Medical Conditions (including immunocompromised students)

If a student becomes sick or has an existing medical condition that precludes them from being at school for more than three days, a weekly learning package will be provided to the student from the teacher. The learning package will focus primarily on the core subject areas (reading, writing, math). Please report all cases where a child will be absent due to illness beyond three days to Mr. Young, the homeroom teacher, and the office by email. [Please refer to the CDC website for further information on immunocompromised health conditions.](#)

12. Large Group Gatherings and In-School Parent Meetings

Large group gatherings will not be taking place during the 2020-2021 school year. The school will be planning alternative ways to build community. Large group gatherings such as chapel, concerts, and team sports will return once it is deemed safe to do so. Meetings that typically require parents to visit the school (meet the teacher night, parent-teacher meetings, AGM, committee meetings, etc.) will be hosted primarily on *Zoom*.

13. Restricted Guest Access

All guests to the building, including parents, will have to report to the office to sign in and provide contact details for contact tracing purposes. Guests may not access the building through designated student entrances. The temperature of guests will be taken with a touchless digital thermometer and guests will be required to wear a mask to move throughout the building beyond the school foyer area. Guests will be required to answer all mandatory health check questions.

14. Casual Dress Wednesdays (no uniform)

To allow parents to perform a regular washing of student uniforms, Wednesdays will be a casual dress day for all students. Students will not be required to wear a uniform to school on Wednesdays. Students should come to school in a fresh set of clothing on a daily basis. This will be a fun departure from the norm for students.

15. Library Learning Commons

Students will temporarily be restricted from weekly visits to the library for the months of September and October as a class. For September and October, Mrs. Belsham will bring a selection of books to classrooms on a cart and students may visit the library in small groups at scheduled times. Mrs. Belsham will also encourage reading through digital formats. This approach will be re-evaluated for November and beyond.

16. Shared Food and Birthdays

We will be recognizing student birthdays in new and fun ways this upcoming year. Due to restrictions on shared food, please do not send special birthday treats to be shared with the class for the upcoming year.

17. Student Activity Fees

While there will be limited field trips this year, teachers will be exploring ways of bringing activities to the school grounds and visiting local destinations. We will also look at putting this money into digital learning materials.