



Coast Meridian Elementary School

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November 12, 2020

Dear Coast Meridian Families:

With the recent increase in COVID19 cases in our Health Region, we just wanted to send out a few reminders about the Health and Safety Guidelines in place to help keep our school safe.

Staff and students are using the Daily Health Check, posted on our school website, on a daily basis. We know this is an extra step in the morning, but it is an important one, as we need to ensure we are staying home with symptoms, even mild ones. We know that sometimes symptoms will start at school, and if that happens, we will call home for the child to be picked up as soon as possible. If a staff member develops symptoms at school, they would also go home. We would then implement cleaning protocols, including using the fogging machine to clean the classroom and other areas where the staff member or child worked. If your child comes home and says they had to leave their classroom today because the fogging machine was being used to clean the room, it is likely due to someone having symptoms of illness in the classroom. As we are in the middle of cold and flu season and symptoms of cold, flu and COVID19 are very similar, please know that just because we have fogged a classroom during the day does not mean there has been a COVID19 exposure. We are just using all tools at our disposal to ensure we all stay healthy.

Another tool that will help us to stay healthy is using masks. Staff are required to wear masks in all common areas and within cohorts when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Students are encouraged to wear masks during the school day, particularly when in common areas, such as the hallways and bathrooms or when working in small groups with a staff member outside of their cohort. Many students are choosing to wear masks when in their own classroom as well. Teachers will remind students to bring their masks with them when leaving the classroom. If a child forgets their mask and wants to wear one, we have disposable masks at the school. Please remind your children to bring masks home to be washed regularly.

We are also washing hands and using sanitizer regularly throughout the day. Handwashing regularly is required and helps us all stay healthy in school; however, this can cause skin to become dry and chapped. With the sudden onset of cold weather, this could worsen. Using cream at night on hands might help alleviate some of the discomfort, as well as using gloves when playing outside to keep hands warm.

Lastly, please contact the school office if your child is going to be staying home sick, or if your child has been asked to self-isolate from Fraser Health due to a recent exposure. We so appreciate the number of families who are choosing to keep their kids home when needed as this helps keep everyone safe. Thank you so much for your ongoing support as we work to keep school safe and healthy for everyone.

Thank you,
Amber Flanagan
Principal