

Community News Flash #17

January 7, 2022



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO
COMPLETE THE ATTACHED DAILY HEALTH CHECK
BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD(REN) TO SCHOOL EACH DAY.**

Important Dates

Monday, January 10 th	- Kindergarten Registration Opens
Wednesday, January 12 th	- 7:00 PAC Meeting
Thursday, January 13 th	- WokBox Hot Lunch
Thursday, January 20 th	- Boston Pizza Hot Lunch

Principal Message

We look forward to warmly welcoming all students back to school on Monday, January 10, 2022!

Our Rosemary staff have been working hard this week to help ensure that all of our [health and safety measures](#) are well in place for Monday.

Our plans and reminders include the following:

Stay Home When Sick

- **Please** ensure that your child is completely healthy when they are sent to school. Unless your child has allergies and frequently has congestion or a runny nose, please consider a runny nose as a reason to keep your child at home until they are completely well
- If students display [symptoms](#) of any illness during the school day, they will be sent to the medical or isolation room with their belongings and parents will be called for prompt pick up

Visitor Access

- Only essential visitors will be invited into the school
- Until further notice parents will no longer be allowed to visit classrooms. Please stay outside the school when picking up your child/children
- PAC will be able to continue the Hot Lunch program with very few volunteers and minimal contact. Parents will be notified if the Hot Lunch program can no longer run

Masks/Hand Hygiene

- We will continue daily announcements and instruction about [masks](#), proper hygiene, as well as when & how we wash our hands (upon entering building, leaving building, before/after we eat)
- We will continue to support the small number of students for whom masks are challenging
- Please send your child to school each day with 3 clean masks in a Ziploc bag. This will allow for your child to change the mask if it breaks, gets wet or is uncomfortable
- **Children will call home for masks in the event they don't have one**

Space Arrangement

- Classrooms will optimize distancing as much as possible
- Outdoor pathways (weather permitting) will be used for transitions to eliminate hallways being crowded
- Scheduling of play times on the Primary playground will be implemented during Recess and Lunch to reduce crowding:
 - Grade 1 students play on the upper field on Tuesday / Thursday
 - Grade 2 students play on the upper field on Monday / Wednesday / Friday
- Students will wear masks during games in PE
- Students will be encouraged to remain in their seats and face forward when masks are off while eating lunch

School Gatherings

- Assemblies will occur online
- Parent/teacher meetings will be held online or by phone

We sincerely thank our Rosemary families for your support, understanding and kindness during these challenging COVID times.

Sincerely,

David Dekerf
Principal @ Rosemary Heights Elem.

Functional Closure

This week we have also been planning for the possibility of a functional closure. A functional closure is when we cannot adequately supervise or instruct children. We often direct children home during snow days, power outages, water main breaks, and other unique circumstances. In this case, the situation could arise that due to staff illness, we have insufficient staff to provide safe supervision of children, or to provide instruction for an extended duration.

If this happens, students will need to move to a period of learning from home. This period is intended to be 7 days and materials and support for this time will be provided by the classroom teacher.

We recognize that any closure is stressful for our school community, and we appreciate the fact that any change in routines will cause disruption and inconvenience for many. We will aim to communicate the potential for a move to home learning as quickly as we can so families can plan accordingly.

Our hope is that we do not need to move to a place where students need to be learning from home, but we want to be prepared. Please ensure that we have your updated contact information, including your phone and email to ensure you receive all communications.

The importance of Daily Health Checks as students head back to class

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

As students in the Surrey School District return to class on Jan. 10 from the extended winter break, [Daily Health Checks](#) remain a crucial step in ensuring the health and safety of staff and students.

The the district reminds students and staff to **Check Up, Back Up, Wash Up, Mask Up and Vax Up**, as part of our ongoing health and safety protocols. Everyone, including students, staff, parents, caregivers and all visitors, must continue to monitor their health every day to determine if they should come to school.



It is critical that we follow this guidance as daily health checks are our schools' first and most important line of defense against COVID-19. *You should not come to school if you feel unwell.* Stay home and seek a health assessment by contacting your healthcare provider or calling 8-1-1 if you feel sick.

*** Links to Daily Health Check forms are available in multiple languages on the district's [COVID-19 Health & Safety page](#). ***

You can also [download the K-12 Health Check Mobile App](#).

Students and staff who have travelled outside of Canada are required to follow both [provincial](#) and [federal requirements](#) for entry. This includes students who are attending school from abroad.

If you have been in close contact with a person confirmed to have COVID-19, follow the [instructions provided by public health](#). You can call 8-1-1 anytime to get advice about how you are feeling and what to do next. If it becomes harder to breathe, you can't drink anything or you feel much worse, seek urgent medical care at an urgent care clinic or emergency department.

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure they are healthy to attend school, and to stay home to protect others if they are not. Please do your part to keep yourself, your families and your school communities safe!

by [Jacob Zinn](#) at 9:06 AM



Know the 14-day rule before travelling with unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children

Now that the U.S. border is open for non-essential travel, parents and students are reminded that international travel – by land, air or sea – presents restrictions around school attendance for unvaccinated and partially vaccinated students upon return.

Students who are not fully vaccinated CANNOT attend school for 14 days following their return, according to [federal travel guidance around COVID-19](#).

While there are some quarantine exemptions for unvaccinated children accompanied by fully vaccinated adults, there is **no exemption** to allow unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students to return to school within 14 days following international travel, *regardless of who they travel with or if they received a negative PCR test result*.

In addition to school, students who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated cannot attend the following for 14 days after international travel:

- day cares and camps
- settings with vulnerable people (i.e. long-term care facilities)
- large crowded indoor or outdoor settings (i.e. amusement parks, sporting events)
- crowded public transportation that does not ensure physical distancing and masking

If you decide to travel internationally during the school year, please coordinate with your teacher and school beforehand to ensure your child stays on top of schoolwork while they are away and for the 14 days following their return.

Unvaccinated children returning from travel must also limit contact with others for 14 days, especially those who have underlying medical conditions, compromised immune systems or are 65 and older. Returning travellers ages five and up must also take a COVID-19 molecular test, monitor their health and watch for symptoms related to COVID-19.

Fully vaccinated students can return to school immediately after returning from international travel, as long as they have a negative PCR test and their second vaccination was at least two weeks prior to their return.

For more information on federal guidance and restrictions, visit canada.ca/coronavirus. For information on provincial measures, visit bccdc.ca/covid19 or call 811.

by [Jacob Zinn](#)

The Do's and Don'ts of masks and how to wear them properly

Thursday, January 6, 2022

With the increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant, it is more important than ever to understand how to ensure the best possible protection from a mask through fit and proper use.

A well-fitting mask should fit securely to your face and be large enough to completely and comfortably cover your nose, mouth and chin without gaps or air leaks around the edges. The federal government has prepared fact sheets highlighting [how to choose, use and care for a mask](#), and [how to properly wear a mask](#).

These reminders come with a number of helpful Do's and Don'ts to remember when handling your mask:



Do's:

- **DO** consider the different types of masks available for public use
- For non-medical masks, choose one made of multiple breathable layers, including at least two layers of tightly woven fabric and a third middle filter layer
- **DO** choose a mask that is clean, dry and damage-free
- **DO** choose a mask that fits well and fully covers your nose, mouth and chin without any gaping sections
- **DO** wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before and after touching or removing a mask
- **DO** use the ties, bands or ear loops to put on and take off your mask
- **DO** improve the fit of your mask by adjusting the flexible nosepiece and ear loops (if any), ties or bands so the mask fits snugly against your face
- **DO** keep your mask on except when eating, drinking or when actively communicating with someone who is hard of hearing or who reads lips
- **DO** store your mask in a clean paper or cloth bag if you plan to wear it again
- **DO** change your mask when it is dirty, damp or damaged, and keep it out of reach of others – store soiled reusable non-medical masks in a waterproof bag or container until they can be cleaned
- **DO** wash reusable non-medical masks (in a washing machine or by hand) with hot, soapy water and dry completely before wearing again
- **DO** throw dirty, damp or damaged disposable masks and used filters in the garbage or use a mask recycling program if one is available

If you must remove your mask, put it back on as soon as possible and ensure other measures are in place, such as physical distancing and being in a well-ventilated or outdoor setting.

Don'ts:

- **DON'T** put a mask on children under two, someone who has difficulty breathing while wearing a mask or someone who needs help removing a mask
- **DON'T** use mask with exhalation valves or vents, or a scarf, bandana, neck gaiter or face shield instead of a mask
- **DON'T** twist ear pieces so that the bottom piece goes around the top of your ear and visa versa as this creates gaps in the mask. If they are too long, you should be opting for a smaller mask, tightening or tying knots in the ear loops to shorten them for a better fit
- **DON'T** touch the front of your mask
- **DON'T** hang your mask from your neck or ears, or place it under your chin
- **DON'T** reuse a disposable mask that's dirty, damp or damaged
- **DON'T** share used masks



How to ensure your mask fits properly

When putting on a mask, it's important to make sure your mask completely covers your nose, mouth and chin. Check for gaps between your face and your mask on the top, sides and bottom of your mask, and along the edges of your mask. Adjust the ties, bands, earloops and nosepiece as necessary.

Here are some tips to improve the fit of your mask if your mask is loose or not snug to your face:

- Tie knots on the ear loops to bring the mask closer to your face
- Tuck in the sides of the mask so that it lies flat against your face
- Use a mask fitter or brace to help provide a snug fit
- Layer a well-fitting non-medical cloth mask over a disposable mask to help push the edges of the disposable mask closer to your face
- Make sure that you can still breathe easily when wearing two masks
- Consider keeping facial hair shaved or short if possible – this allows the mask to fit more closely to your face



For more information on mask usage, see the [Government of Canada's website](#).

Painting Christmas Presents

Division 11



The Surrey School district invites applications for the following position:

SUPERVISION AIDES

This is an ideal part-time opportunity for retirees, post-secondary students studying from home and adults who relate well to children and youth. You will work one hour per day providing lunch supervision to elementary and secondary students. The hourly rate is \$22.21 per hour, and preference will be given to those available Monday to Friday.

Apply online at www.surreyschools.ca/careers

Questions? Contact Heidi Haywood, Human Resources 604-595-6145

Note: Successful applicants will be required to consent to a Criminal Record Search prior to employment. Only those persons selected for interviews will be contacted. To all others, thank you for your interest.



Student Absences

If your child is going to be away from school or late to school please email the office at rosemaryheights@surreyschools.ca and include the following information:

- First and Last Name
- Teacher
- Division
- Reason for Absence

If you choose to email your child's teacher, you will still need to notify the office of your child's absence, or the office will need to call to confirm absence.

Rosemary Rockets App

Keep up to date with our school calendar by downloading our Rosemary Rockets app from the app store or google play.

<https://rosemary.appazur.com/#/>



DAILY HEALTH CHECK

KEY SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS	WHAT TO DO
Fever (above 38°C)	<p>If yes to 1 or more of these symptoms: Stay home and get a health assessment.</p> <p>Contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.</p>
Chills	
Cough	
Difficulty breathing	
Loss of sense of smell or taste	
OTHER SYMPTOMS	WHAT TO DO
Sore throat	<p>If yes to 1 symptom: Stay home until you feel better.</p>
Loss of appetite	
Headache	<p>If yes to 2 or more of these symptoms: Stay home for 24 hours.</p> <p>If symptoms don't get better or get worse, get a health assessment; contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.</p>
Body aches	
Extreme fatigue or tiredness	
Nausea and vomiting	
Diarrhea	
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL:	WHAT TO DO
Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	<p>If yes: All students and staff who have travelled outside of Canada are required to self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival under both provincial and federal orders.</p> <p>This includes students who are attending school from abroad. Students from outside of Canada should plan to arrive in Canada at least two weeks before they are scheduled to attend school to adhere to the selfquarantine orders. Additional information is available here.</p>
CLOSE CONTACT	WHAT TO DO
Have you been contacted by public health and notified that you are a close contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	<p>If yes: Please follow the instructions provided by Public Health.</p> <p>You can call 8-1-1 anytime to get advice about how you are feeling and what to do next. Pay attention to how you are feeling. If it becomes harder to breathe, you can't drink anything or feel much worse, seek urgent medical care at an urgent care clinic or emergency department.</p>

Check your symptoms with the [K-12 Health Check](#). If you have any questions, or the symptoms get worse, contact your healthcare provider, or call 8-1-1. For more information on COVID-19, please go to www.bccdc.ca. If you develop severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing (e.g. struggling to breathe or speaking in single words) or chest pain, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department.

Please check BCCDC's [Symptoms of COVID-19](#) regularly to ensure the list is up to date.