



Burnaby Mountain Secondary School

Friday January 7, 2022

Dear Families,

Happy New Year. I hope that you had an opportunity to enjoy the holiday season. I'm writing to share what to expect, as students return to full in-person instruction next week on Monday January 10, 2022.

Functional Closures

As you may have heard in the news this week, the Provincial Health Officer has warned businesses to expect as much as a third of their staff to be off sick with COVID-19 at any given time. Schools reflect what is happening in the community and – as Superintendent Gina Niccoli-Moen shared in her [message to families last week](#) – there is a possibility that, at some point, schools may not have enough staff to provide the required level of teaching, supervision, and/or custodial support to ensure the health and safety of students. If that happens, after consultation with the District, we may have what's called a functional closure.

We will do everything we can to keep our school open. If we do have to call a functional closure, I will be reaching out to let you know. Please ensure you are checking your email messages from the school, as depending on when we learn of staff booking off sick, it is possible you will receive a message in the morning impacting that same school day.

If there is a functional closure, we will endeavor to move to remote learning as quickly as we can, however depending on available staff, that may not happen the next day.

I recognize that the pandemic has once again thrust a period of uncertainty on us all. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. You can learn more about functional closures on the front page of the district website [here](#).

Health and Safety

Please read and review with your child the following health and safety measures that all students and families are expected to follow.



Burnaby Mountain Secondary School

Preventing Crowding

We are adding extra guidelines to help prevent crowding throughout the school during transition times. In entering the school in the morning, we ask that students use the following school entrances:

Period 1/Flex First Floor Classrooms – 100 level classrooms & gyms	Students will enter the doors in the parking lot under the yellow outside stairs
Period 1/Flex Second Floor Classrooms – 200 level classrooms	Students will enter the main doors off of Eastlake by the rainbow crosswalk.
Period 1/Flex Third Floor Classrooms – 300 level classrooms	Students will enter the doors off of Gaglardi nearest to the cafeteria

Similarly, in leaving the school at the end of the day, we ask that students exit the building according to the floor that their locker is on. If students do not need to access their locker at the end of the day, then students should exit the school according to the floor that their last period class is on. Please see below for the proper school exits to use:

First Floor	Students will exit using the doors out to the parking lot under the yellow outside stairs OR the main entrance doors by the rainbow crosswalk
Second Floor	Students will exit using the doors nearest to the cafeteria OR using the stairs by room 204 into the parking lot
Third Floor	Students will exit using the yellow stairs out to the parking lot (beside room 308) OR using the doors nearest to the cafeteria

During lunchtime, students are encouraged to eat their lunch in the classroom. Students must be seated while they eat, staggered from one another. Students cannot be standing or walking around while they eat. We have also put capacity limits on student tables and benches in the commons. Furthermore, students should try to practice physical distancing as much as possible while eating lunch and use the hand washing stations often.



Burnaby Mountain Secondary School

We will also be working with classroom teachers to stagger break times during long blocks on Wednesdays and Thursdays in the morning and afternoon. Students are asked to only take 15-minute long breaks to help prevent excess crowding in the hallways.

We will also be implementing washroom occupancy limits on all student washrooms to a maximum of 3 students per washroom.

All of these measures will be put in place to help promote physical distancing and minimize the crowding of students. These strategies are in place to encourage students to consider and respect others personal space and promote health and safety within our school.

More site-specific measures

The attached PowerPoint presentation will be shared with students during period 1 on Monday morning. Please review in advance to help best prepare your child for a safe return to school.

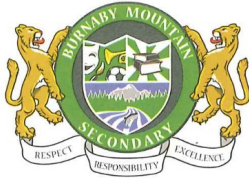
Visitors in Schools

We are limiting access to the building to students, school staff, and essential adults who are directly supporting activities benefitting student learning and wellbeing. Please contact the school office should you wish to arrange a virtual appointment.

Masks, Maximizing Physical Distance, Hand Hygiene and Cleaning

The following remains important:

- **Masks.** A reminder that students in all grades and all staff are required to wear a mask indoors at school.
- **Physical Distancing.** We will continue our practice of maximizing physical distance where possible. At this stage in the pandemic many are understandably experiencing fatigue, and we thank you in advance for continuing to model physical distancing with other families while on school grounds.
- **Hand Hygiene.** We will continue to encourage students to wash and/or sanitize their hands frequently.
- **Cleaning.** Surfaces are cleaned and/or disinfected at least once a day.



Burnaby Mountain Secondary School

Daily Health Check

It remains critical that people continue to do the daily health check (found [here](#)) each morning to determine if they should come into the building that day. Please do not come to school ill. If a student becomes sick while at school, as previously, the office will contact you for immediate pick up of your child.

School Notification Process and Rapid Tests

As you may have heard in the announcement from the Provincial Government today, public health is no longer providing individual COVID-19 exposure notifications regarding schools. They shared that public health has transitioned to individual self-management (that is, individuals caring for themselves and engaging with health care providers when needed.) We are awaiting information about the role schools may play in public health's rapid antigen testing strategy.

We are looking forward to welcoming your student back.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Kristmanson