

BACK TO SCHOOL



COVID 19 School Health and Safety Measures at Raymer Elementary School

***Based on SD23 COVID 19 Updates Linked: [HERE](#)

For the 2021/2022 school year, students and staff are in the classroom full time with updated health and safety measures. This safety plan has been updated as of January 5th with the new Provincial regulations being taken into account. This letter is intended to provide you with additional information regarding the latest announcements from the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry. The following information will help all families understand what to expect in the coming weeks and what new protocols and procedures we have put into place. We recognize the length of this document and thank you in advance for reading through the protocols we have in place, before bringing your child back to school.

With the guidance from the BC Center for Disease Control, the following protocols will remain in place to support our students while attending full-time, in-person learning. We will continue to receive updates for the Interior Health Region and adjust our protocols accordingly.

Daily Health Checks

The Daily Health Check tool will be the most effective process parents use to assess their child's health prior to sending them to school each day. The health of our students will be a collaborative effort and we ask that all parents use this tool daily. The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) has recently updated the list of symptoms we are to consider when deciding whether our children are well enough to safely attend school. The updated 'Daily Health Check' can be found here: [Daily Health Check – APP](#) or a hard copy can be printed: [HARD COPY](#).

As in the past, if your child is not attending school, please use our [Safe Arrival App](#) to report your child's absence for the day, as we will be expecting them otherwise.

- All students and staff must complete a daily health check and **stay home if feeling unwell.**
- Parents and caregivers are responsible for assessing their children daily before sending them to school
- School administrators will ensure staff and other adults know they are responsible for assessing themselves daily for symptoms prior to entering the school.

Use the daily health check app for parents

Download the app:

- [iOS devices \(iPhone/iPad\)](#)
- [Android devices](#)

Physical Spacing

Schools have returned to classroom and learning environmental configurations and activities that best meet learned needs and preferred educational approaches, though should still consider implementing strategies to help create space between people and to support students and staff using a trauma-informed approach.

- Maintain as much space from others as possible. Follow foot traffic and spacing signage instructions
- Respect each other's personal space
- Consider going outdoors
- Increased capacity limits, beyond the standard limits as per fire code, only apply to gatherings/events where there are visitors from outside the school (e.g. spectators; students from other schools). If there are such visitors then there is a 50% capacity restriction for gatherings/events. That also includes gatherings/events that are outside (**NOTE:** this restriction is anticipated to expire on April 7/2022 – pending provincial announcement)

Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene continues to be a key prevention measure. Cleaning of hands will be performed at the following times:

- When students arrive at school
- Before and after any breaks (lunch, recess)
- Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at students' desks)
- Moving between learning spaces used by multiple classrooms (library, gym, MPR)

- After using the bathroom
- After sneezing/coughing into hands
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

Masks or Personal Protective Equipment

The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice. A person's choice is to be supported and respected.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools

General cleaning of schools, cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces will be conducted at least once in every 24-hour period and when visibly dirty. An electrostatic sprayer will also be used as an extra layer of cleaning.

MERV filters were upgraded during the summer and continue to be well maintained.

Items at School

Students will have access to personal materials that are used on an on-going basis such as pens, paper, manipulatives and play equipment, including gym equipment. Students will continue to have access to their coat hooks and we continue to ask students to bring **ONLY ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO SCHOOL** (indoor shoes, weather appropriate clothing, lunch and water bottles). We also ask that students are able to independently change/tie shoes, zipper coats, put on snow gear etc. If your child cannot tie shoes independently, please consider velcro shoes.

Water fountains will be available for drinking and refilling water bottles. Ideally, each student will have a labelled water bottle with a spout that can be refilled throughout the day.

Food Services

- We will continue to provide Brown Bag lunches and pre-packaged breakfasts to students who have registered for this program. They will continue to be delivered to classrooms. Lunches and breakfasts continue when students return to school on the 10th.

- At this time, home-made food cannot be brought from home to share with others (cupcakes, birthday treats, etc).

Lunch and Recess

- There will be rotating schedules for lunch outdoor space. The lunch hour will remain the same, but some students will eat before playing while others play before eating.
- There will be NO FOOD CONSUMPTION outside classrooms or designated locations to maintain proper hand washing/sanitizing protocols. Supervisors will be wearing safety vests and attached to classrooms. Students will not bring food outside.
- We have moved back to a single recess break between 1:35-1:50.

Visitors

- Will be limited within the school and will be by invitation or appointment only.
- The front doors will remain closed and we ask visitors to call the office for assistance.

School Gatherings and Events

- School wide assemblies will return to face to face experiences
- For events with visitors (eg parents/caregiver spectators):
 - Should not exceed 50% capacity and proof of vaccination should not be implemented while the PHO Gatherings and Events Order is in place.
 - Can return to 100% capacity when the PHO Gatherings and Events Order is lifted (expected end of day Apr. 7, 2022).

Sport, Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

- Intramurals will run for our intermediate students based on each grade level.

Music and Physical Education programs

Students can participate in music and physical education programs, with additional safety measures in place.

- Students must continue to wear masks while singing.
- Shared equipment will be cleaned and disinfected and students are encouraged to hand hygiene before and after use.
- Students will be asked not to share equipment that touches the mouth, like an instrument mouthpiece or mouthguard, unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses.

We value our partnership with families and look forward to continuing to develop our learners academic, social emotional, and physical well being. If you have any questions at all, please contact me at 250-870-5125 or Kyla.Babcock@sd23.bc.ca.

With Gratitude,

Kyla Babcock
Principal, Raymer Elementary