



Davie Jones Elementary School

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Principal: Mrs. Cathryn Blanco

September 3, 2021

Key Health & Safety Routines for Students at Davie Jones Elementary

Dear DJE Families:

As we approach the return to class for our students, I am sharing a summary of our school's updated health and safety protocols to give you a better sense of what to expect when your children return to school next week. We are in a better place than we were last September and a number of routines within the school will feel less restrictive for our kids.

Hopefully, this additional information will give you a sense of the thoughtful manner in which we are approaching this year's provincial return to school plan. To ensure we continue to keep the school community as safe as possible, many of the approaches that were used successfully last year remain in place. I hope it gives you confidence that your children are safe and well cared for at Davie Jones Elementary!

- **MASKS:** All K-12 staff, visitors, and students in grades 4 to 12 are required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas of the school and on school buses. Students in kindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear masks. Exceptions to the mask requirements are outlined on [page 20 of the provincial guidelines](#).
- **DAILY HEALTH CHECKS:** Daily health checks are required before students/staff come to school. A daily health check list is posted to the [school district website](#) and all school websites. This means that anyone entering our school is expected to be healthy and symptom free. As a staff, we will be monitoring for illness and there will be a timely removal of any symptomatic students (or staff) from classroom settings. If any student becomes sick during the day, school staff will call the parents to request pick up and discuss next steps. **We still have a new normal with regards to flu and colds, and for the safety of everyone, anyone experiencing symptoms cannot remain in classrooms.**
- **VISITORS:** We will be continuing to carefully manage and document visitors in our schools in alignment with current provincial guidelines. Parents and others must still make special arrangements to enter the school. All prospective visitors need to complete a Daily Health Check and sign in with their contact information prior to entry. **Please do not let these continuing safety protocols stop you from connecting with us so we can work together to do the best we can for your child! Staff are regularly available at drop off, pick up, or via email (we do not currently have phones in the classrooms).**

- **COHORTS:** Cohorts, also known as learning groups, are no longer recommended by public health as a COVID-19 mitigation measure and will not be used. We will, however; continue to be very cautious and avoid and/or limit bigger activities such as assemblies for the time being. So, even though there are many children within the school, your child will continue to interact mostly with their teachers, support staff and classroom peers inside the building.
- **HAND HYGIENE:** Our school has a regular hand washing schedule throughout the building as part of our daily routine. Diligent hand hygiene will continue to be emphasized with handwashing encouraged upon school entry, before/after breaks, before/after eating, after using washrooms, and after touching shared equipment.
- **PHYSICAL DISTANCING:** Although public health no longer recommends strict physical distancing of two meters, our school will continue to use strategies to help students be aware of personal space. Our beautiful school is very well designed for many of the current safety recommendations.
- **RECESS & LUNCH:** We will again have separate recess and lunch play times with only half of the school outside playing at any one time. Outdoors there is a very low transmission risk so with reduced student numbers, hand washing routines, and the fact that most children play mostly with their classmates already, you can be confident that these outdoor play times are safe.

Intermediate Recess: 10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Primary Recess: 10:20 – 10:35 a.m.

Lunch: 11:55 a.m. –12:35 p.m.

(Intermediates Play First/Eat Later; Primaries Eat First/Play Later)

- **VACCINATIONS:** According to public health, vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and communities. Public health strongly encourages all eligible students (12+) and staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Registration is available:
 - Online through the [Get Vaccinated portal](#)
 - By calling 1-833-838-2323
 - In person at any [Service BC location](#)
 - People can also be immunized at [drop-in vaccine clinics](#) throughout the province

I hope that this snapshot of some of our health and safety procedures will help you to feel confident that our school has a good plan to maintain a safe learning space for your children.

Sincerely,



Cathryn Blanco

Principal - Davie Jones Elementary