



MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

20820 River Road, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 1Z7

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Principal: Barbara MacKinnon

Vice Principal: Chelsea Lendvoy

Dear Maple Ridge Elementary Families,

We look forward to welcoming all students back on January 10. Staff members have been working this past week to update and implement enhanced safety protocols for our school, as well as planning in case there are future interruptions in learning. Our Superintendent, Harry Dhillon, sent out a [letter to families](#) on the parent portal and on the district website that gives further details. In his letter, he outlines the plan if we need to temporarily transition to on-line/remote learning in the event of a functional closure or a closure determined by the Medical Health Officer.

Please review the information below in preparation for a safe return to school. As always, it is important that we work together to keep our community healthy and our school open.

Screening and When to Stay Home:

Please continue to complete a [daily health check](#) for your children, using the K-12 Health Check App. Keep your child at home if they do not pass the daily health check or if they are ill with a cold or flu. District staff will need to perform this same daily assessment and will also be required to stay home should they have any symptoms of illness. Please ensure there is a plan in place for your child to be picked up should they develop symptoms while at school and that contact information is up to date.

School Day and Entry/Exit Procedures:

MRE will continue to run as usual from 8:30 a.m. to 2:25 p.m. for all classes. All students are required to enter and exit from their specified doors – these are the same doors they have been using all year. Teachers greet and dismiss their classes at their designated location and supervise a controlled entry and exit from the school. Please consider arranging a meeting place with your child where there is less congestion than the front of the school.

Hallways and Washrooms:

To limit crowding in hallways, students walk in a single file on the right side of the hall. Washrooms have a limit of two students at a time. Children wait outside for their turn, staying two meters apart.

School access:

Entry into the school building is limited to students, MRE staff and those who are performing services essential to our education and health.

Student Absences:

Please contact the office as soon as possible if your child will be absent. Absences can be logged for one or more days. The preferred method is to use the parent portal. The email address for the office is mre_reception@sd42.ca and both the portal and the answering machine are available after hours. It is important we have accurate attendance information, so we must follow up on every absence that is not reported.

Practicing Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene signage has been posted throughout our school. Students will wash their hands at the following intervals:

- When they arrive at school.
- Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).
- Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk).
- Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes, e.g., library and gym.
- After using the washroom.
- After sneezing or coughing into hands.
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty.

Social Distancing

Please spread out during drop off and pick up times. Avoid crowded areas.

Classrooms have been configured to spread students out as much as possible and, where possible, not to have students facing each other.

For the time being, lunch time clubs have been put on hold.

Masks

The [PHO Order – Face Coverings](#) requires all students, staff and visitors to wear a mask indoors at school. [Proper fit](#) is a key factor in mask effectiveness and masks worn at school should fit well. Masks are most effective when everyone who is able is wearing one. If your child has an exemption from mask wearing, we ask you to consider, if possible, having your child wear a mask for at least part of the day, taking breaks when needed. Please continue to provide your child with two clean masks each day (as one often gets dirty or lost). We have masks available at the office for any child who needs one.

We recognize these are challenging times and we are grateful for your ongoing support. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, January 10.

Sincerely,

Barb MacKinnon
Principal

Chelsea Lendvoy
Vice Principal