



# Pitt Meadows Secondary School Ecole Secondaire Pitt Meadows

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T: 604-465-7141 [www.pmss.sd42.ca](http://www.pmss.sd42.ca)

MAY 2021 Newsletter

Dear PMSS families,

Thank you so much for your ongoing dedication, patience, and support. We know this is a challenging year and your continued support is greatly appreciated.

I recently received an email from a Pitt Meadows resident celebrating our students. She writes, "as a local resident I see students walking to and from school wearing masks and whenever I have occasion to pass the students on the sidewalk, they invariably give me a wide berth and I appreciate it. So, a big thank you and compliments to these young people." It was heartwarming to have the continued efforts our students acknowledged by a local resident.

It is hard to believe that we are in Quarter 4 of our school year. Springtime signifies hope and renewal with the beautiful cherry blossoms on our trees. Nature has a way of bringing peace and a sense of calm. I hope you get time to slow down and enjoy the springtime beauty around us with a walk with your family.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our amazing educators.

Respectfully,  
Cheryl Schwarz  
Principal

Thanks for Masking!

### **Administrative Assignments:**

Mrs. Cheryl Schwarz – Principal

Mr. Denis Drapeau – Vice Principal

Mr. Lozinski – Vice Principal

Grade 12

Grade 8, 10

Grades 9, 11

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### **Counselling Department:**

Ms. Sarah Van Nuys

Ms. Alisha McLaughlin

Ms. Penny Griffin

Ms. Tory Flavin

Grades 8, 10, International

Grades 9, 11, 12 Counselling

Grade 12 Academic Advisor

Youth Care Worker

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## Enhanced Cleaning in Schools – Vital Oxide

The health and safety of our students and staff is always our primary concern. In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have the added responsibility of ensuring that our facilities are cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the *Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings*.

The school district currently uses Vital Oxide solution as part of its enhanced daily cleaning regimen implemented to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. It is hypoallergenic, biodegradable, fragrance-free, food-safe, and non-toxic. The product is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and has one of the safest classifications possible while also killing 99.999% of bacteria and viruses within minutes.

The district initially used a bleach-based cleaner when schools reopened for in-classroom instruction in September but switched to the eco-friendly Vital Oxide in late October/early November to address feedback received from schools. Fraser Health has confirmed that this product is not hazardous and non-toxic and is not expected to cause respiratory or skin irritation. Eye contact may cause mild irritation.

As always, if you have any concerns, please make sure to share these concerns with me. In rare instances where an adverse reaction does occur, the district can switch to a different hypoallergenic product for that classroom.

**Amanda Reber - Human Resources Manager**  
School District 42 - Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows  
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Check out the sites listed below to help you connect with what's happening at Pitt Meadows Secondary.

**PMSS Website:** <https://pmss.sd42.ca/>

- ❖ **PMSS School App:** This app is an important communication tool that parents & students can access easily on their phones. This technology provides daily updates to the calendar and schedule, your timetable, homework notifications, etc., can all be accessed using 'the app' Check it out by going to the App Store or Google Play <https://myschoolday.app/download>
- ❖ **Parent Portal:** <http://parents.sd42.ca>  
This website features District & School announcements; Consent & Policy forms; Field trip forms; Pay School Fees (\$28.00); Pay Yearbook Fees (\$55.00); Grad Fees (cost to be advised); Purchase Pitt Stop Café Lunch Cards (\$21.00)
- ❖ **MyClass:** <https://myedbc.sd42.ca/MyClass>  
(Student Attendance /Report Card Information / Classroom resources and communicate with Teachers)
- ❖ **Find us on Twitter:** @Pittsecondary

## Grads of 2021 Update

We will be celebrating with our PMSS Graduating class of 2021 on Friday June 11, 2021.

Event details will be finalized soon and information is forthcoming.



We are very proud of all the Grade 12 students. It has certainly been a year to remember

## PMSS – Fun Facts.....

Did you know.....many of the teachers who work at PMSS can be found on the walls of the school in grad photos?  
Did you know.....Greg Moore, who was a formula 1 race car driver graduated from PMSS?  
Did you know.....PMSS is 59 years old and is on unceded territory of the Katzie First Nation?  
Did you know.....PMSS has the second longest hallway in the province? It is the main hallway in the school and is as long as an entire city block!

If you have a **Fun Fact** of Pitt Meadows Secondary or the City of Pitt Meadows, please share them!!

## May happenings

- ❖ **May 5 – Collaboration Day – Late Start**
  - Gr 10-12 start 9:45
  - Gr 8 & 9 start 10:00
- ❖ **May 9 – Mother's Day**
- ❖ **May 12 – Non-Instructional Day – No Classes**
- ❖ **May 24 – Statutory Holiday – Victoria Day**
- ❖ **May 26 – Grade 7 Welcome to PMSS ZOOM**



## June – looking ahead

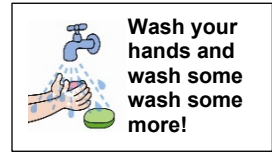
- ❖ **June 3 – Collaboration Day – Late Start**
  - Gr 10-12 start 9:45
  - Gr 8 & 9 start 10:00
- ❖ **June 11 – Grad ceremony/walk (details to follow)**
- ❖ **June 20 – Father's Day**
- ❖ **June 21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day**
- ❖ **June 24 – Final in class session**
- ❖ **June 25 – Flex classes**
- ❖ **June 29 – Quarter 4 Report Cards Published on your MyClass account.**



# COVID 19 INFORMATION – THINGS TO KNOW

## **BEST PRACTICES:**

- Students will be provided 2 reusable masks from our school district. Masks should be regularly cleaned after each use and stored appropriately. May we suggest that your child stores them in a special case or paper bag.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle, and utensils for lunch.
- Please note that all our schools will practice *pack it in and pack out lunch waste*. We should all reduce and reuse before we recycle.
- Students are not able to share supplies. Please ensure that they have their own school supplies for each subject of the quarter. Teachers will not be able to have shareable bins of pens and pencils as per Health and Safety Guidelines.
- Staff and students are not permitted to share food as per Health and Safety Guidelines.



## **WEARING A FACE COVERING**

Masks are not required within learning groups (cohorts) but are mandatory for secondary students and staff when they are outside of their learning groups and in high-traffic areas where physical distancing cannot be maintained (e.g. in buses, hallways, school office, library and some classrooms). The school district will provide two reusable cloth masks to all secondary students. Staff who interact with multiple learning groups will be required to wear a mask and face shield when they are unable to maintain physical distancing.

## **VENTILATION AND ENHANCED CLEANING AND DISINFECTION ROUTINES**

Ventilation systems in all school district facilities will meet **WorkSafeBC** requirements, and all air filters will be replaced on a regular basis. All schools will be cleaned in accordance with the Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings. General cleaning (including single-use surfaces like student desks) will occur once every 24 hours, while frequently touched surfaces as well as all shared equipment, appliances, manipulatives, and tools, will be cleaned and disinfected twice every 24 hours. The school district has hired additional custodians to meet the demands of these enhanced cleaning routines

## **DAILY HEALTH SELF-ASSESSMENT**

Everyone entering the school environment is expected to do a Daily Health Assessment. This is a personal review of the signs and symptoms of Covid - 19.

It is not necessary to print or submit. Further detailed information can be located on the SD42 website.

Please review the form in the attached link: [Daily-Health-Assessment-Checklist](#)

## **SYMPTOMS / ILLNESS**

The BCCDC guidelines for schools are mandatory. If a student, staff member or any other adult has any symptoms of a cold, influenza, COVID-19, or any other infectious respiratory disease, they must not enter the school. <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>

Students, staff members and any other adult must stay home and self-isolate if they have:

- ❖ Travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days
- ❖ Identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak
  - ❖ This includes the children of essential service workers.

## **AS PER PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE PROTOCOL IF A STUDENT/STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS OF THIS ILLNESS AT SCHOOL**

If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school, schools should:

- ❖ Provide the student/staff with a non-medical mask if they don't have one (exceptions should be made for students/staff who cannot wear masks for medical and/or disability-related reasons)
- ❖ Provide the student/staff with a space where they can wait comfortably that is separated from others.
  - The student is to be supervised and cared for, when separated.
- ❖ Make arrangements for the student/staff to go home as soon as possible.
  - Contact the student's parent/caregiver with a request to have their child picked up as soon as possible
- ❖ Clean and disinfect the areas the student/staff used.
- ❖ Encourage the student/staff to seek assessment by a health-care provider.
- ❖ Request that the student/staff stay home until COVID-19 has been excluded and symptoms have resolved.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should not return to school until they have been assessed by a health-care provider to excluded COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved.

Schools and school districts should notify their local medical health officer if staff and or student absenteeism exceeds 10% of regular attendance, to help with the early identification of clusters or outbreaks.

## **PROTOCOL IN THE EVENT OF A CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE IN A SCHOOL**

If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, and were potentially infectious while they were at school:

- Public health will perform an investigation to determine if there were any potential close contacts within the school.
  - To learn more about contact tracing visit the [BCCDC.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca)
  - Students and staff who have interacted with the confirmed case may be asked to stay home while public health completes their investigation.
- If it is determined that there are close contacts within the school, public health will notify the school administrators to request class and bus lists to assist with contact tracing and provide guidance on what steps should be taken.
- Public health may then:
  - Recommend 14-day isolation if necessary (for confirmed close contacts)
  - Recommend monitoring for symptoms if necessary
  - Provide follow-up recommendations if necessary
- Schools must continue to provide learning support to students required to self-isolate
- Together, schools/school districts and public health officials will determine if any other actions are necessary.

## ✓ DAILY HEALTH CHECK

All parents, guardians, and/or caregivers **MUST** conduct a *Daily Health Check* of their child(ren) before sending them to school. The Daily Health Check is also available online at <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/>

### SYMPTOMS

- Fever (above 38°C)
- Chills
- Cough
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing



### WHAT TO DO

#### 1 or more of these symptoms:

- Stay home.
- Contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.

### SYMPTOMS

- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Headache
- Body aches
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



### WHAT TO DO

#### 1 symptom:

- Stay home until you feel better.
- Contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.

#### 2 or more of these symptoms:

- Stay home and wait 24 hours to see if you feel better. If symptoms don't improve or if they get worse, get a health assessment. Contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.

### CLOSE CONTACT

If you are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19 and have any of the symptoms listed above:

- Get tested and stay home.
- Fraser Health will advise you if you are a close contact. For more information on close contacts, go to <http://www.bccdc.ca/covid19closecontacts>.
- If you are unsure, please call 8-1-1.

### INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?

- 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.



If your child develops severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing (eg. struggling to breathe or speaking in single words) or chest pain, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department.