



# BC CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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*"Equipping students to impact the world for Jesus."*

## COVID-19 - REOPENING PLANS - JUNE 1, 2020

May 22, 2020

Dear BCCA FAMILIES,

Last week the BC Minister of Health and the BC Minister of Education announced the approval of a voluntary, partial, reopening of independent and public schools, beginning June 1, 2020. Although schools are required to open, **please note that in-class attendance is voluntary and the decision rests with students' families.**

Earlier this week we sent a survey asking our BCCA families if they would send their children back to our school buildings for the remainder of this year beginning on June 1, 2020. We had 208 families respond and 77% said "NO" they will not allow their children to return to our school buildings for the remainder of this school year and 23% said "YES" they will allow their child(ren) to return, with the understanding that it will be on a part-time basis.

Based on the survey results, we will continue to operate our BCCA Virtual School as we have been until the end of the school year. For those families that have said they would like to have their children return to our BCCA campuses, on a part-time schedule basis as stipulated by the Ministry of Education, we will be contacting each of these families directly to let you know which days your child will be permitted to attend to ensure that safety protocols can be followed.

### **What are the support measures to support the health and safety of students and staff?**

BCCA will be following the directions of the Provincial Health Officer.

1. [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines](#) for K-12 Settings
  2. COVID-19 Public Health [Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#)
  3. [WorkSafeBC](#)
1. Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines Include:
    - A. The number of children of students attending school at one time.
    - B. Possible staggered pick-up and drop-off times as well as recess, lunch, and time outdoors.
    - C. Upon arrival at school, students and staff will wash and/or sanitize their hands. Opportunities for frequent handwashing will be provided.

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D Hand sanitizer stations in the classrooms or hallways. Students will be reminded about the steps they can take to keep themselves and others healthy and staff will model these behaviours throughout the school day.

## **The importance of Physical Distancing**

Adolescent children should physically distance themselves where possible when outside the family unit or household. For younger children, maintaining physical distance is less practical and Provincial Health Office guidelines focus on minimizing physical contact instead.

- A. Students will be reminded to avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, high-fives, handshakes, etc.).
- B. Students and staff will be spread out into different areas via different classroom and learning environment configurations to allow 6 feet (2 meters) between students and adults. Tables will be taken down and desks set aside to ensure adequate distancing.
- C. Students will be organized into smaller groups so that they stay together throughout the day. Staffing assignments will minimize the number of different teachers and support staff that interact with groups of students throughout the Day.
- D. Pick-up and drop-off times may be staggered.
- E. Recess/snack, lunch and class transition times may be staggered to provide a greater amount of space for everyone.
- F. For younger students, group activities will be adapted to minimize physical contact and reduce shared items.
- G. For adolescent students, group activities will be minimized and avoid activities that require physical contact.
- H. Traffic flows will be managed to limit the number of people in common areas, including hallways.
- I. Parents, caregivers, and other non-staff adults will not be allowed to enter the school building without a pre-arranged appointment.
- J. Any assemblies and other school-wide events will be held virtually.
- K. Students will be reminded not to share food, drinks, utensils, or belongings.
- L. All students must have all their materials in their backpacks. Lockers will not be used.
- M. All students need to have their personal earphones/ headphones
- N. No lunches will be permitted that need to be heated up. Also, no lunch deliveries will be permitted.

## **What screening measures will be taken by the school?**

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Parents and Guardians MUST assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. Staff and students who are ill will not be permitted to attend school. Provincial Health Office guidelines indicate schools do not have any role in screening students or staff for symptoms, checking temperatures or COVID-19 testing. Such activities are reserved for health care professionals.

## **Do my children or staff need to wear masks?**

According to the guidelines provided by the Provincial Health Officer, wearing a cloth or homemade mask, particularly by children, is not recommended. However, wearing a mask is a personal choice. It is important that people who decide to wear masks are treated with respect. Parents and staff can teach and reinforce these practices amongst students.

## **How will our school buildings be cleaned and disinfected?**

Regular cleaning and disinfecting are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. BCCA will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BC Centre for Disease Control's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document.

This includes:

- A. General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises will occur at least once a day.
- B. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day.

## **How will school supplies be cleaned?**

According to the Provincial Health Office guidelines there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper, or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution or sharing of books or paper-based educational resources to students because of COVID-19.

## **What is the schedule for in-class instruction?**

For families desiring to have in-class instruction, the school will be open from **8:30am -2:30pm** at both the HS and Elem. Campuses. Please note the new times. If families have indicated that you would prefer to bring your children to the school building when it reopens in June 2020, the principals of each of our campuses will be instructing our Elem. and HS office staff to contact those parents/guardians by Wed. May 27th to discuss your children's schedule for their in-school days. This will be done to help facilitate physical distancing at schools.

Students on-campus MUST be in full uniform. Please be aware that most of your children's classmates will not be on-campus and will continue with our BCCA Virtual Schooling. For

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those that choose to send their children to school in June, they will only come to school 2X a week for K-5 students and 1X a week for grades 6-12 students, as directed by the Ministry of Education for a Stage 3 gradual reopening. Please understand that all of our BCCA staff are working long hours, (many going beyond their normal hours when the children were in-class in our buildings) to provide virtual schooling for your children and support for our BCCA families.

### **Will siblings of different age ranges/grade groupings be able to attend on the same days?**

We will be arranging on-campus attendance by each family's last name so your children will be able to attend on the same days.

### **Will my child still receive the currently implemented BCCA Virtual Schooling if they do not attend on-campus schooling?**

“YES”, your child will still receive the excellent virtual school instruction that he/she is receiving now. Since over 77% of our families have stated that they will not be sending their children to our school buildings when we reopen on June 1, 2020, this will still be the primary mode of instruction.

### **Will my child have the same teacher as they did before?**

As very few of our students will be on campus and all of our teaching staff will need to continue with our Virtual School, your child may be mixed with other students, from other classes due to the small numbers and teaching may be done by another teaching staff member. Your child will also need to continue to receive virtual instruction in the morning as we will not have enough staff members to do virtual instruction as well as in-school instruction.

### **I am an Essential Services Worker. What support is available for my child?**

As we have already been doing, we will continue in-class instruction for all Essential Service Workers children, for [Tier 1 and Tier 2 Essential Service Workers](#).

**My child has special needs and a ministry designation. How will their learning be supported?** Children with exceptional learning needs will continue to be supported in their learning. As such, they may have an opportunity to attend school each day or continue learning virtually, or a combination of both. School staff will be in contact with families of students with exceptional learning needs who may benefit from additional in-class support.

### **Will there be before- and after-school care available?**

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Before and after-school care may be available through our BCCA Kids Club Program. Please contact the director, Mrs. Theresa Lee at 604-942-3746 or email [kidsclub@bccaschool.ca](mailto:kidsclub@bccaschool.ca) for more info.

## **How will students' marks be impacted if they attend versus if they continue with our virtual school program?**

Students will receive marks based on their learning progress regardless if they attend in-class instruction on a part-time basis or continue to learn through our BCCA Virtual School.

## **Will students be able to use playgrounds or play sports?**

Guidelines issued by the Provincial Health Office do not prohibit playground time nor sports. However, to minimize physical contact, these activities may be limited. Students may instead have more unstructured play or place-based play.

## **Will there be field trips for students?**

Unfortunately, field trips will not take place for the remainder of the school year. However, increased time outdoors will be incorporated into the school day.

God Bless You All!

Mr Ian Jarvie  
Head Principal  
BC Christian Academy

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