

Strawberry Vale Elementary Return to School Guidelines

2020 / 2021

Updated: April 1, 2021

These guidelines must be followed by all members of the Strawberry Vale community to help ensure the health and safety of all students, staff and families. Updates and changes will be communicated with the Strawberry Vale community as necessary throughout the year via email and the school's website: www.strawberryvale.sd61.bc.ca

Stay Home When Sick

All parents and caregivers have the responsibility to assess their children daily for symptoms of COVID-19, the common cold, influenza or other infectious respiratory diseases before sending them to school.

A daily health check can be found on the [school district's website](#) or via the [Province's Online Health Check App](#)

If a child has any key symptoms, they must not go to school

Any student, adults or staff who have or display key symptoms of COVID-19 or the common cold, influenza or other infectious respiratory diseases **must stay home** and contact 811, a family physician or nurse practitioner to assess their symptoms and receive advice on next steps before they can return to school. Students who display symptoms while at school will be immediately removed from class and isolated in our medical room until a caregiver can take them home.

Expectations of students while at school

While at school students will....

- ☐ follow the health and safety expectations and protocols as outlined
- ☐ follow specific classroom expectations and routines as outlined by the teacher
- ☐ be prepared to engage in learning and class activities for the full day
- ☐ respect the personal space of other children and adults

If students do not follow the expectations they will be reminded of the expectations by staff and provided an opportunity to correct their behaviour and follow expectations. If a student continues to not follow the expectations or continually displays unsafe behaviours, parents will be contacted and a parent meeting will be arranged before the student may return to school.

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Daily Schedule

Strawberry Vale will have regular school hours each day - 8:40 am to 2:48 pm Monday to Thursday and 8:40 am - 2:48 pm on Fridays. Students will continue to have recess and lunch breaks as per usual during the day.

Students returning to the Hybrid program will attend from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on their in-person instructional days.

Please refer to the Pick Up / Drop Off section for further information.

Learning Groups, Minimizing Physical Contact and Physical Distancing

Strawberry Vale Staff and students will be organized into learning groups to reduce the number of in-person, close interactions a person has in school without requiring physical distancing to be practiced consistently. Learning Groups at the elementary level can be composed of up to 60 people (students and staff).

- Within learning groups, minimized physical contact is encouraged, but the two metre physical distance does not need to be maintained.
- Within the learning group, consistent seating arrangements, limited shared resources and outdoor learning and physical health activities are encouraged.
- Staff working with multiple learning groups will practice two metre physical distancing and mask/face shield wearing
- A student's learning group will primarily be those staff and students in their class but will also include the students and staff from another similar grade level class where necessary. For example- a Grade 2 student's learning group would include the staff and students in their class as well as the staff and students in another Grade 2 class. The classes would function independently of each other but could interact with each other if necessary.
- Learning groups will stay consistent throughout the year except where required to accommodate learning, operational or student health and safety considerations.

Recess times and interactions between Learning Groups

Recess is an important time for students to socialize and connect with peers and friends. The Ministry of Education and BC CDC Guideline documents allow for elementary school students to socialize with peers in different learning groups if they are outdoors and can minimize physical contact. Strawberry Vale will be allowing students to connect with friends from different learning groups at recess times.

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Students will at times find themselves naturally within six feet of each other, this is how they have learned to engage with their friends and the world around them. Students will receive reminders and staff will be implementing physical distancing strategies to minimize physical contact throughout the day such as:

- regular reminders to students to 'keep their hands to themselves' and 'respect personal space or bubble'
- discouraging close greetings such as hugs, handshakes and high fives
- students will be provided with extra support as necessary to help minimize physical contact during recess times
- due to the high community use of the tennis courts, the tennis courts will be out of bounds to students during recess times
- games such as simple tag and chase are permitted - games which involve prolonged physical touching, grabbing and or 'capturing' will not be allowed.
- Gr. 4 and 5 students will be allowed to be involved in competitive games like soccer or basketball at recess times. Games will be restricted to a limit of 10 players. If students are unable to limit and/or minimize their physical contact within the game they will not be able to participate

As we did in June we will be assigning areas on the grounds for students to play in during recess times and we will also be staggering some of our recess times to allow more space for students to play and socialize.

Strawberry Vale Recess, Lunch Recess and Location Schedules			
Kindergarten	Recess 10:40 - 11:00 am Kindergarten Playground and Back of School	Lunch Recess 11:50am - 12:15 pm Kindergarten Playground and Back of School	Lunch (eating) 12:20 - 12:45 pm Classroom
Grades 1-3	Recess 10:20 - 10:40 am Kindergarten Playground and Back of School	Lunch (eating) 11:50 - 12:15 pm Classroom	12:20 - 12:45 pm Kindergarten Playground and Back of School
Grades 4/5	Recess 10:20 - 10:40 am Basketball Courts and Front Playground / Fields	Lunch (eating) 11:50 - 12:15 pm Classroom	12:15 - 12:45 pm Basketball Courts and Front Playground / Fields

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What students should bring to school

Students will have an individual locker assigned to them. In some cases, siblings will be assigned a shared locker.

Lunch kits and water bottles will be stored in the classroom during the day to limit the number of trips students will need to make to their locker each day. Lockers will be cleaned each evening by Custodial staff.

Classes and students will have scheduled times to use their lockers throughout the day that will be supervised by Staff. Students are encouraged to only bring items that will fit easily into their backpack and are necessary for the day. Items to include:

- *Lunch and snack*
 - We are adopting a school wide 'pack in and pack out' policy for lunch waste to allow custodians to focus on cleaning and disinfecting during the day. Students will be asked to take home any remaining food and garbage from their snacks and lunches. Reusable containers are encouraged.
- *Water*
 - Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle with them to school. Students will have the opportunity to refill water bottles during the day using our water bottle filling station with adult supervision.
- *Clothes, hats and shoes to be outside depending on the weather*
- *Teachers may suggest students bring other items to use during the day*

Outside food and treats for Birthdays and other celebrations

- Families are asked not to send any homemade treats, pre-packaged treats or non food treats to school to be shared with other students for Birthdays or other celebrations

Main Entrance / Entrance Doors / Accessing the Office

- All adult visitors to the Office must wear a mask/face covering
- During the school day the only entrance door that will be unlocked will be the Main Entrance doors - students will access the school through their outside classroom door
- The Main Entrance doors are to be used to access the Office only
- **Please limit your visits to the Office - where possible phone calls and email are the preferred methods to contact the Office at this time**

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- Upon entering be sure to sanitize your hands at the hand sanitizing station before proceeding to the Office
- If visiting the Office please line up outside until a Staff member invites you in. We are only able to accomodate 1 additional person in the Office at a time.
- We will be logging the names of visitors to the Office to assist with contact tracing if needed during the school year.

Arriving / drop off at school

- Students and families are encouraged to arrive at school at 8:40 am. Students should arrive with just enough time to line up with classmates at the outside door of their classroom. Doors are marked with Division numbers and teacher's names.
- Students do not need to physically distance themselves in the line up because they are in the same learning group but students should respect the personal space of their classmates at all times.
- All students will enter and exit the building via their classroom outside door
- Students will be allowed into the room by a staff member
- Upon entering students will wash their hands and sit in their assigned seat
- Parents are to wait outside the school and not to come into the building to drop off or pick up their child.
- Parents are to wait back behind the red railing and off of the pavement to allow students room to line up and enter their classroom
- Parents and caregivers are encouraged to wear masks while on school property
- Parents are reminded to practice and model physical distancing for students and not gather in groups when dropping off or picking up their children.
- Students arriving after 8:40 am go directly to their classroom outside door. Do not come to the Office to sign in. Please wait at the classroom outside door and staff will invite your child into the class.

Leaving / pick up from school

- All students will be dismissed at 2:48 pm and can be picked up from their classroom outside door.
- Families are encouraged to practice and model physical distancing when leaving the school for the day.
- Parents are reminded to remain back from the classroom exit doors by standing behind the red railing and off of the pavement to allow for the safe exit of students from the building and prevent crowding
- Parents and caregivers are encouraged to wear masks while on school property

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- Families are encouraged not to gather in groups after school on the grounds and playgrounds
- It is important that parents are on time for pick up/dismissal at the end of the day
- If you are picking your child up before 2:48 pm please inform the teacher in the morning and use the classroom outside door to pick up your child. Do not come to the Office to sign out your child.
- Please wait at the classroom outside door and do not enter the classroom when you are picking up your child.

Hallways

- Hallways are only to be used by students when going to and from the washrooms or when being escorted by a staff member
- Hallways will be marked similar to a road with a dotted centre line and directional arrows. Students will be encouraged to 'stay in their lane' when going to and from the washroom
- Hallways will only be used as an alternative learning space when under the direct supervision of a staff member. Students requiring a body break will be taken outside by staff.
- Parents are not to be in the building or the hallways unless going to and from the Office

Washrooms

- Students will use the washroom one at a time with a limited amount of students waiting outside the washroom for their turn
- Students will be expected to wash their hands before leaving their classroom to go to the washroom and when they return from the washroom
- Students will use the washrooms designated to their Pod of classrooms. Several washrooms have now been designated gender neutral to help with the safe movement of students through the hallways and limit congestion
- As per Provincial Guidelines washrooms and other high touch surfaces will be cleaned at least two times per day

Hand Hygiene and Hand Washing

- Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness
- Hand washing opportunities will be incorporated into daily routines
- All classrooms have sinks to wash hands throughout the day
- All classrooms will have hand sanitizer available for student use

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When Students Should Perform Hand Hygiene:	When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 or locker).• Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple cohorts (e.g. the gym, music room, science lab, etc.).• After using the toilet.• After sneezing or coughing into hands.• Whenever hands are visibly dirty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When they arrive at school.• Before and after any breaks (e.g. recess, lunch).• Before and after eating and drinking.• Before and after handling food or assisting students with eating.• Before and after giving medication to a student or self.• After using the toilet.• After contact with body fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood).• After cleaning tasks.• After removing gloves.• After handling garbage.• Whenever hands are visibly dirty

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

All Strawberry Vale Staff and students in Grades 4 and 5 are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in school both within and outside of their learning group.

Students in Grades K to 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools but are not required to do so - mask wearing remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students, and their choices must be respected.

Exceptions for staff, students and visitors:

The guidance outlined above regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstances:

- to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reason
- to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- if the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it

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- if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.)
- if a person is eating or drinking
- if a person is behind a barrier
- while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important.

The following procedures will be followed should a students or staff member develops symptoms at school:

What to Do If a Student or Staff Member Develops Symptoms At School

IF STUDENT DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL

Staff must take the following steps:

1. Immediately separate the symptomatic student from others in the designated area.
2. Ask the student to put on their mask. If the student does not have a mask they will be provided with a disposable mask or tissues to cover their coughs or sneezes. Used tissues will be disposed of as soon as possible and hand hygiene performed.
3. The office will contact the student's parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible.
4. Where possible, a 2-metre distance from the ill student. If not possible, staff supervising the student will wear a mask or face covering.
5. Staff must avoid touching the student's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva). If staff do, practice diligent hand hygiene.
6. Once the student is picked up, all staff supervising the student must practice diligent hand hygiene.
7. The custodian must clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated and any areas recently used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).

Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.

IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT WORK

Staff must notify the administrator and go home as soon as possible.

If unable to leave immediately:

1. Symptomatic staff must separate themselves into an area away from others, outside if practical
2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.
3. Use a mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait to be picked up.
4. The custodian must clean and disinfect the space where the staff member was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).



**BC COVID-19 Symptom
Self-Assessment Tool**

The Strawberry Vale Return to School Guidelines September 2020 will be updated as necessary throughout the school year and communicated via email and our school website. If you have any questions please contact the school office. Further information can be found on the school District website:

<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/covid-19/>