

CUPE K-12



We are proud of the crucial role CUPE members play in supporting health care workers who are fighting COVID-19 on the front lines.

As more students return to in-class learning, we will continue to support our workers and the vulnerable students in our schools.

All school districts **must** follow the guidelines of the PHO and WorkSafe BC, as well as the provincial COVID-19 health and safety standards for K-12.

These times are challenging, but we will get through this together.

In solidarity and safety,

Warren Williams
K-12 Presidents Council President

Restarting B.C.'s Schools FAQ

Will there be Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for students and staff? Will students and staff be encouraged to wear masks?

Students and staff will not be required to wear non-medical masks; however, wearing a mask is a personal choice, and anyone who chooses to do so will be treated respectfully.

What exactly will these safety measures look like? What are you doing to protect children and staff?

To make sure schools are safe for students and staff, the number of students in school each day will be reduced, with most receiving in-class instruction part-time.

All boards of education will be required to implement the strict health and safety measures endorsed by the Provincial Health Officer and WorkSafeBC to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, which includes:

- Limiting the number of students in school, avoiding groups or gatherings of students in hallways or other common areas and taking students outside more often
- Regular cleaning of high-contact surfaces like door knobs, toilet seats, keyboards and desks at least twice a day, and cleaning the school building at least once a day
- Students, educators and staff will be required to clean their hands before entering school property and there will be more hand-sanitizing and cleaning stations available
- There will be staggered drop-offs, lunch and recess breaks, with increased outside time
- Staff and students (or their parents/guardians) will be asked to assess themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19 with clear policies not to come to school if unwell. If any student or staff member has even mild symptoms, arrangements will be made for that person to be returned home
- One student per seat on school buses, unless children are from the same house, with plexiglass separating the bus driver from students.
- Students or employees will be discouraged from sharing food or personal items like phones, pens or pencils, and clear protocols will be in place for the safe and healthy handling of all food items. to do so will be treated respectfully.

"I'm protecting you and you're protecting me"

The latest update on masks

If you are not able to guarantee two-metres of social distancing, wearing non-medical masks is now a specific recommendation (not a requirement). These masks protect other people against your droplets, adding another level of protection to prevent transmission to others. Wearing non-medical masks does not replace covering your cough; frequent hand washing; cleaning and disinfecting high use surfaces; not touching your face; and maintaining a two-metre physical distance space.