

CUPE K-12



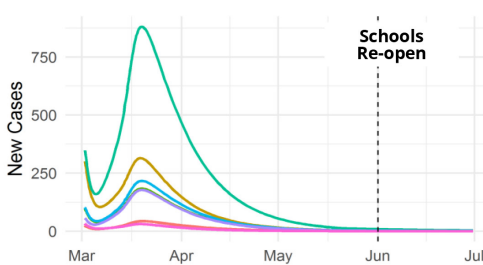
New modelling reassuring for K-12 restart

Age Structured Modelling: The susceptibility of children to infection (50% vs 100% compared to adults)

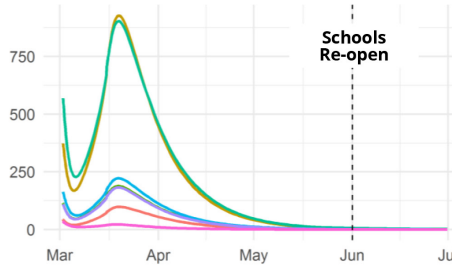
Age group

- 0 to 4
- 5 to 17
- 18 to 24
- 25 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65+ healthy
- 65+ in care

Susceptibility of Children = 50%



Susceptibility of Children = 100%



Partial re-opening of schools in June has a minimal impact on transmission in the short term, provided vulnerable adults maintain physical distancing.

Dr. Bonnie Henry presented a new type of modelling relevant to the K-12 restart. **Age structured modelling** is based on real data about how different age groups interact in B.C. The model was developed by BCCDC and UBC to help understand influenza transmission.

According to Dr. Henry, children are less likely to get infected with COVID-19. The modelling shows that even if children were 100% susceptible and had the same risk of getting infected as adults, opening schools will “have a minimal impact on transmission in B.C. —as long as we continue to do the things that we’re doing.”

Even in the worst case scenario, where children had the same rate of transmission as adults, the re-opening of schools is not expected to cause rapid growth of the virus, if we continue to maintain safe distancing and to ensure that schools are equipped to prevent transmission “to the greatest extent possible.”

Dr. Henry said that as long as we are fastidious about staying away when ill, we would prevent a rapid increase in epidemic growth.

The PHO will be following what’s happening in schools as well as transmission patterns in communities over the next couple of weeks, the second incubation period since B.C.’s restart. The data will guide the PHO on when we can move to the next phase of the restart.

“We need to follow our rules,” said Dr. Henry. “To always, always, always stay home and away from others if we’re sick.”

You can find the BCCDC modelling charts presented on June 4 [here](#).

I’d like to thank everyone for their role in B.C.’s K-12 restart this week. All schools were open on June 1 and 60,000 students attended.

For the most part, things went well with the re-opening of in-class instruction this week.

Some districts are still having issues around PPEs.

All sites should have their joint Health and Safety Committees up and running. This is our first line to address safety concerns if your district is not following the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer.

Contact your local if you need help to address your issues. This is our opportunity to see how we are able to work together in the ‘new normal’ and be ready for September.

During this month all classes have limited capacity with alternating schedules. Children of essential service workers and students who need additional support will continue to be able to access full-time classroom instruction.

Thanks to everyone who sent in member pics. Stay tuned for the video coming soon.

In solidarity and safety,

Warren Williams

K-12 Presidents Council President