



Superintendent's Update

Potential School Closures due to COVID-19

January 7, 2021

Dear School District 47 Parents/Caregivers, and Staff,

I am providing this update to make you aware of our District's plans to support learning should there be a school closure. As part of our COVID-19 contingency plan, all School District 47 schools, and staff, are prepared for potential interruptions in learning. Should a full or partial school closure be deemed necessary, remote learning will allow for the continuity of learning during suspension of in-person instruction.

Definitions

1) **Health Closure**

A Health Closure is determined by the local health authority due to the COVID-19 case count in, or related, to a school. Vancouver Coastal Health in consultation with the School District will determine the need for a health-related school closure.

The length of the closure will be determined by Vancouver Coastal Health.

2) **Functional Closure**

A Functional Closure is determined by the School District due to a lack of staff to provide the required level of teaching, supervision, support, and/or custodial to ensure the health and safety of students. This would likely be due to a high absenteeism of all staff, or certain employees required for a school to function, and the inability to replace those absences.

The Superintendent, in consultation with the school principal, will determine the need for a functional school closure.

The length of the closure may vary based on workforce needs.

School Closure Process

- The Superintendent will work with the school principal to inform parents/caregivers of a school closure.
- Should a mid-day school closure be deemed necessary, parents will be notified that the school is closing, and be requested to pick up their children. A mid-day bus will be dispatched to transport students home (as age appropriate or supported by parents). Students will remain at school until transportation has been arranged to the end of day.

Day 1—Transition

- Teachers will communicate with parents the delivery method of instruction and learning during the school closure, including the process for checking in and making appointments.

Arrangements for materials and other resources will be made at this time.

Day 2 - Return to In-Person Instruction—Remote Learning

- Instruction moves to remote learning for all students. Teachers will plan tasks and projects to help students learn while in-person classes are cancelled. This may include synchronous (at the same time) or asynchronous (at the student's own pace) activities or a combination of both. Teachers will use the regular school day hours for learning and communication. Synchronous sessions for high school students will follow the same block rotation as the student's current schedule.
- All learning experiences will be designed with social emotional, mental health, and equity in mind and will focus on priority learning standards.

Return to In-Person Instruction

- Once a return to in-person instruction can happen, follow up communication to the specific school community affected will take place.
- All staff and students return to in-person instruction.

The safety of students and staff is our primary concern. We will continue to make decisions based on the advice of the Provincial Health Officer. Please refer to our [district webpage](#) for updates and the most recent information. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together to support each other and our school community.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jay Yule
Superintendent
Board of Education
School District 47 (Powell River)

JY/ac