



Catholic Independent Schools Kamloops Diocese

Office of the Superintendent

May 8, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

I hope you and your families remain safe, healthy and well.

As you may already be aware, Premier Horgan announced some promising news of the provincial government's "Restart BC"¹ framework earlier this week. The announcement included the identification of a five-stage plan to help BC recover from the impact of the current pandemic.

On Wednesday May 6, the BC Ministry of Education shared a media release specific to the K-12 education sector entitled, "A Measured Approach to Phasing in a Return to Learning in Classrooms" (attached). In this document, it identifies that BC schools are currently operating in Stage 4. The Province has referenced in its *Restart BC* plan that if transmission rates remain low or in decline, K-12 schools shall move towards operating in Stage 3 (anticipated to commence in June) under enhanced protocols, by providing for:

- In-class learning for students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 on a part-time basis.
- Access to in-class learning as needed for grades 6 to 12 on a part-time basis.
- Remote and online learning continuing to be available for students.

The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education are currently working on providing K-12 School Authorities direction on critical health and safety guidelines that must be in place prior to the start of Stage 3 commencing to provide for both learners, as well as those who work to support them- our staff. Once this information is received and processed by CISKD and its schools, the plan, along with its timelines and protocols for implementation, shall be communicated with families and staff respectively. We are anticipating providing a minimum of one week's notice to families prior to implementing Stage 3 services in CISKD schools to permit families time to plan.

In the meantime, please know I continue to work closely with the Superintendents of Catholic Independent Schools of British Columbia, the Federation of Independent Schools Association, the Ministry of Education's Independent Schools Branch, WorkSafeBC, and our Principals in preparation for supporting this anticipated change in CISKD schools. Until the Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Education sets an official starting date for Stage 3 to commence or otherwise formally lifts the suspension of in-class learning, current ongoing educational opportunities remain in place in our schools. Please note that the possibility of full time K-12 in-class instruction will not be considered until the fall. Schools will continue to offer current childcare options for children of Essential Service Workers pending the return of in-school instruction in the future, until otherwise advised by the respective Ministry.

Thank you for continuing to do all you can to prevent the spread of this virus. May God continue to bless us as we journey forward, safely, together.

In Faith, Hope, and Christian Love,

Holly Paluck
Superintendent of Schools

¹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>