



**TWO RIVERS EDUCATION  
CENTRE**

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August 21, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you are aware, all schools in British Columbia will open to in-person instruction this September. The Ministry of Education Five Stage Framework for K-12 includes a comprehensive COVID-19 health and safety measure plan. The five stages may be viewed at the following link:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school/five-stages-framework>

Supporting this framework are the detailed guidelines from WorkSafeBC outlining COVID-19 Education (K-12): Protocols for returning to operation located at the following link:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/education>

**Start Dates:**

Students in B.C. will return to in-class learning in September 2020. B.C.'s plan includes new health and safety measures, increased funding for protective equipment like masks, and new learning groups to help keep everyone safe. Learning groups at TREC will be described in the next section.

I will try to reach you by phone next week so that we can talk about your child's enrollment in the 2020-2021 school year and any support you may require if we need to move to remote learning.

**Learning Groups/Cohorts:**

At TREC, students will be organized into three (3) cohort groups, to limit physical contact and exposure. Cohort #1 will consist of students from all three programs (TREC Senior, TREC Junior, and EXCELL), and these students will be required to attend school on Mondays and Wednesdays. Cohort #2 will include students from all three programs, but they will be required to participate in on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cohort #3 will consist of students from any of the three programs which have elected to complete their school work entirely online using our WCLN/Moodle courses. On Fridays, these students will be able to access their teachers for help, write tests, or attend Care Team meetings when necessary. The expectation for all students, regardless of their cohort, is to make progress on their courses while at home. All eight staff members will be in contact with all cohorts, but they will maintain social distance and/or wear masks in the classroom and common areas.

We have also restructured the classrooms and enter/exit points for students based on their program. The EXCELL classroom is now located at the lower level of the main TREC building, and students in this program will enter and exit the main building's front door. The TREC Junior program is now located in the portable, and students in that program will enter and exit the rear (East-most) door of the portable. The TREC Senior classroom is still in the upper level of the main building, and students in this program will enter and exit the rear door of the main building via the wheelchair ramp.

We are planning a gradual re-entry to school in September. All staff will return to school on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. During September 8th and 9th, staff and administration will be working together to familiarize themselves with the new safety guidelines and the logistics of safely managing the needs (educational, social, and emotional) of our three cohorts of students in these unique circumstances. On September 10 (for EXCELL and TREC Junior) and September 11 (for TREC Senior only), we will invite our students to school for an orientation to the new routines and safety protocols that will ensure everyone's safety.

We will also build our cohorts on those two days based on student needs, and we will schedule IEP meetings for students in the TREC Junior and EXCELL programs. TREC Senior students will begin regular classes on Monday/Tuesday, September 14th/15th. TREC Junior and EXCELL students will start regular classes in the following week once all IEP meetings have been completed.

For the time being, schedules will look quite different. The TREC staff will continue to offer strong academic and emotional support to our students, and our First Nations Support Worker will continue to provide culturally relevant experiences and social-emotional support for our Indigenous students.

### **Safety Measures:**

As we begin the school year, safety measures will include physical distancing, minimized physical contact, hand washing/hand sanitizing, and frequent cleaning of the school. We will have a custodian dropping into our school once or twice daily to clean frequently touched surfaces like door handles, toilet handles, tables, and desks. The school will also be cleaned every evening. We will also have signage reminding students of the need for regular handwashing/sanitizing and physical distancing.

At this time, every student and staff member will be provided with two masks when they enter the school. The Ministry of Education requires that all staff and students wear a mask while in the hallways or any common area of the school, or while riding the bus. Students who wish to wear a mask in their classrooms are welcome and encouraged to do so.

For parents who can arrange rides to and/or from school for their children, other than the school bus, we kindly request that you do so. This will result in more space on the buses and, consequently, a better social distancing of the children who must rely on them for transportation.

We will be encouraging students to remain in the TREC building throughout the day, and to this end, we will provide a bagged lunch daily to any students wishing one. Students who absolutely must have a break in the outdoors may do so in the one appointed area directly across the street from HATS, as long as social distancing is maintained.

We have hand sanitizing stations at each entrance/exit, and students will be required to use them as they enter or exit the building.

There will also be sign in-out lists at each entrance/exit that students will need to fill in so that Public Health can do contact tracing if one of our students or staff are identified as having COVID-19.

To minimize the number of people in our school building, we ask that parents and guardians call us at one of the amounts shown in our letterhead above, rather than come into the school to speak with us. If it is necessary to visit TREC, we ask that you enter through the main school building's front door, sign in, hand sanitize, and come to the main office just upstairs to let us know that you are going to be in one of the buildings.

**Daily Home Procedure:**

Parents need to assess their children daily for symptoms of the common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory diseases before sending them to school. Students with symptoms should not come to school. The Ministry of Health has developed a Self-Assessment tool that can be accessed at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>. Please contact the school if you need to keep your son or daughter home.

**Infection Prevention and Control:**

Students and staff with cold, influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms should stay home, self-isolate and be assessed by a health care provider. Testing is recommended for anyone with any of the symptoms listed in the self-assessment tool mentioned above. All staff/students who have travelled outside of Canada are required to self-isolate for 14 days. Should a student begin to develop any of the symptoms mentioned in the self-assessment checklist while at school, they will be taken immediately to our isolation room, their parent or emergency contact called, and, they will be taken home as soon as practically possible.

There is a great deal of information given in this letter, and you will probably need some time to reflect on it. I will be trying to reach each of you next week to check in with you about your child's return to school. Please take the opportunity to ask any questions or voice any concerns about any of this information during this time. If you prefer to email, my address is [margaret.smiley@sd78.bc.ca](mailto:margaret.smiley@sd78.bc.ca).

We hope that you and your family have had a peaceful and safe summer, and we look forward to seeing your son or daughter very soon.

Yours very sincerely,

Margaret A. Smiley  
Principal – Two Rivers Education Centre