

December 30, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

As many of you are aware, yesterday at 3 pm the Minister of Education announced that schools province-wide will delay reopening until Monday, January 10th. From Tuesday, January 4th through Friday, January 7th, staff will be in schools planning for the re-opening of schools the following week. Please note that children of essential service health care workers can be accommodated at schools during this week (as can in-school staff's children). Please contact your school principal by email if you need this support for any time during the week of Jan 4th. Further, students with significant needs will also be accommodated during this time, and again, please contact your school principal to confirm your child's attendance during the week. Please note regular school buses will not be running but transportation will continue to be available to those students with significant needs.

When school re-opens there will be some (temporary) changes. These include no spectators at sports or performances, no visitors to our school sites, and a variety of other changes, some of which will vary by site. Schools may be notifying parents directly later next week if there are specific changes you need to be made aware of. Further, there is no plan provincially at this time to move to online or hybrid learning.

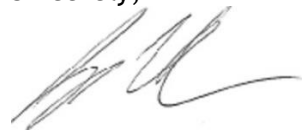
Omicron is different from previous variants. It appears to be more communicable, but less virulent than previous variants. This means Health Authorities are treating it differently—this includes less contact tracing and related notifications, and more emphasis on self-monitoring and staying home if ill. In the near future, we will likely get updated information on the length of time to isolate and monitor symptoms and will pass this on as we get it. A reminder that vaccination and mask-wearing continue to be the best defence against significant symptoms to Covid.

Links:

[Enhanced safety measures, delayed return to school to support safe, in-person learning | BC Gov NewsAddendum_K-12Guidance_12292021.pdf \(bccdc.ca\)](#)

As this is a continually evolving situation, there may be changes to our information in the coming weeks, with short notification timelines. If you have any questions, please email me at angus.wilson@mpsd.ca. Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding with these complex issues.

Sincerely,



Angus Wilson

Superintendent of Schools