

STUDENTS WITH IMMUNE SUPPRESSION or STUDENTS WITH PARENTS/CAREGIVERS WHO ARE IMMUNOCOMPROMISED

According to the Provincial Health Officer and the Centre for Disease Control, most children who are immunocompromised can return to in-class instruction where safety measures are in place. Protective self-isolation is only recommended for children who are severely immunocompromised, as determined on a case by case basis.

The advice from the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control for parents/caregivers of children with complex medical conditions or underlying risk factors, or parents/caregivers who are immunocompromised themselves, is to consult with their medical health care provider to determine the level of risk regarding their child's return to in-class instruction.

Parents/caregivers seeking an alternative to in-class instruction, and who do not wish to register their child in a distributed learning program or homeschooling, will be required to obtain a doctor's note indicating the need for accommodations due to health-related risks. School districts are expected to work with these families to ensure continuity of learning and supports. Accommodations could include some elements of remote learning, specific course offerings, and/or modified days. Specifics for each child need to be developed in collaboration with families and school staff.

For students with immune suppression, if attending in-class instruction is right for the child: school and school districts work with parents or caregivers to develop options for learning to ensure appropriate preventative measures are in place.

For students with immune suppression, if attending in-class instruction is not right for the child: schools and school districts work with families to develop options to continue their child's education at school or school district.

Criteria for Students with Immune Suppression:

Criteria for Children with Immune Suppression based on information from the BC Children's Hospital available from: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/priority-populations/children-with-immune-suppression>

1. They have a medical condition that affects their immune system.
2. They have side effects from medications that cause a very low white blood cell count.
3. They are taking medication that suppresses their immune system. Children may be taking these medicines as treatment for:
 - autoimmune or rheumatologic disease
 - inflammatory bowel disease
 - immune-mediated kidney or liver disease
 - organ transplant
 - bone marrow or stem cell transplant
4. They are having chemotherapy, or they had chemotherapy recently.

Process for Parents to Request Accommodations:

- Parent/guardian visit their medical health to obtain a doctor's note using attached form.

August 24, 2020

- Contact the school principal/vice principal to discuss accommodation options and develop a collaborative plan.

Educational Programming:

- The student is assigned to a learning group/classroom. A case manager will be assigned by the school principal/vice principal, and in consultation with the learning group/classroom teacher, will develop and implement the accommodations.
- For some students programming will be focused on the goals in their IEP. If appropriate, programming could include virtual Educational Assistant and/or Teacher support, virtual specialized therapy support (e.g. Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language Pathology).
- District support will be available to the school including programming design support and learning resources.
- Options for returning to in-class instruction will be revisited at specific times of the year– e.g. Thanksgiving, Christmas break and Spring break