

Thursday, March 17, 2022

RE: What to expect when schools return after Spring Break

Dear Families:

With Spring Break just around the corner, I would like to wish you a wonderful holiday. It has been two years since the pandemic started and your support during these challenging times has been greatly appreciated.

As restrictions lift, we are beginning to feel a sense of newness in our communities, and our schools are slowly returning to how they were prior to COVID-19. This letter is to serve as a helpful reminder of changes that will be in effect when students return to class on **Monday, April 4, 2022**:

- Masks will no longer be required in the schools, school buses or administrative buildings. Masks will become optional and a student or staff member's personal choice.
**We strongly encourage conversations with your children around mask wear to help foster supportive and respectful environments for those who may discontinue or continue wearing their masks. We understand and respect that there are varying levels of comfort and factors that will support an individual's personal decision.*
- School visitors will no longer be required to sign in for communicable disease prevention purposes. Note, if a facility had a sign-in sheet prior to the pandemic for other purposes, they may continue using this practice.

We also anticipate that the Provincial Health Officer's Gathering and Events Order will be lifted in early April. If so, schools will be able to host school and sports events, including graduation celebrations, with 100% capacity, which we are very excited about. As this unfolds, we will keep you posted with further developments.

We would like to remind families to continue with their daily health checks. If you are not feeling well, please stay home. If you are traveling, please be mindful of the travel guidelines and requirements when returning: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a healthy and safe spring break!

Sincerely,



Deb Whitten
Interim Superintendent of Schools

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.