

This is important information. Please have this translated.

هذه الرسالة مهمة جداً . يرجى الطلب من شخص ما بترجمتها لك .

請找人替閣下翻譯這重要通告。이것은 중요한 통지입니다. 꼭 번역하여 읽으십시오.

यह बहुत ज़रूरी नोटिस है एसका हिन्दी मे अनुवाद कराईये।

Ito ay importanteng impormasyon. Mangyaring isalin ito sa Tagalog.

February 19, 2021

Dear Surrey Schools community,

We recognize that this has been a difficult year, and I'd like to reassure you that the health and safety of our staff, students and families remains our district's highest priority.

Our Provincial Health Officer views the full and continued operation of schools to be critical to a healthy society and we are committed to ensuring our students can continue to learn as safely as possible. To ensure we are taking every preventative measure necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our schools, our district has been collaborating with Fraser Health to assess district health and safety plans to determine if any other actions are necessary. This includes environmental assessments of individual schools.

To date, we have conducted 3 assessments (Ecole Panorama Ridge Secondary, Cambridge Elementary and Newton Elementary) collaboratively with Fraser Health. Each assessment included a physical review of each site, along with interviews with key staff at the site and a review of procedures and protocols.

Fraser Health's final reports of each assessment are attached. All three of the assessments conducted to date found our schools to be in compliance with provincial protocols and reiterated critical areas of focus to continue limiting the spread of COVID-19. It's important that as you read the assessments, you recognize our district's commitment to transparency about COVID-19 exposures in our schools and our protocols.

As you are no doubt aware, our schools have had a number of exposures (that are community acquired) and that have not resulted in school-based transmission – this is a testament to the fact that our staff and students are following protocols consistent with public health guidelines and recommendations. I want to personally commend our staff and students for being vigilant, working within the guidelines and taking all the necessary steps to ensure safety. The reports clearly demonstrate that it takes all of us working together, at every level of the protocols, to ensure that we keep safe.

Our schools are safely open and this is largely due to the caring and dedicated professionals who are working hard at each site and remain committed to the health and safety of our students.

If you have any questions about this report, please email us at comm-office@surreyschools.ca.

Sincerely,



Jordan Tinney
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

Joint Site Visit Report in Response to COVID-19

School: Panorama Ridge Secondary

Introduction

In the month of October 2020, British Columbia was experiencing its second wave of COVID-19. Communities in the Fraser Health region were greatly impacted as it had one of the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the province. Yet, the risk of transmission for the virus has remained low within the school settings. In a proactive and collaborative effort to help ensure the risk of COVID-19 transmission remains low within the schools, Fraser Health and the Surrey School Board conducted a joint visit at one of the Surrey Schools to help identify potential gaps within the current COVID-19 protocols.

Panorama Ridge Secondary was selected as a pilot project since there was an increase in number of COVID-19 cases noted within the community. The joint visit took place on October 29, 2020. The objective of the visit was for the team to assess the implementation of the Surrey Schools Health and Safety Guidelines for COVID-19 and to identify potential key points for consideration to strength the existing established guidelines.

Methodology

On the day of the visit, the team consisted of a Fraser Health Public Health Nurse and an Environmental Health Officer, and Panorama Ridge's Vice Principal, Health & Safety Liaison, and Head Secretary. Based on the Ministry of Health Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings (September 3, 2020) and the Surrey School Board Health and Safety Guidelines for COVID-19 (2020-2021), Fraser Health had developed a COVID-19 assessment guide for the team to use. The intent of the assessment guide is to provide the team with a consistency approach in assessing potential risks related to COVID-19.

The assessment guide is divided into seven main categories, each with its own subcomponents. Each components were either marked off as satisfactory, discuss improvements, or not applicable. The seven main categories are:

- cohorts,
- physical distancing,
- awareness/education and communication,
- screening/monitoring,
- personal/environmental hygiene,
- personal protective equipment, and
- setting where cohorting or physical distancing not feasible.

As a validation tool, the following methods were used:

- documentation on-site within the school office,

- documented in the Surrey Schools and Covid Safety Plan,
- observations by the team, or
- questions from the Fraser Health Population and Public Health team to the staff were used as validation tools for the assessment guide.

On the day of the visit, the team had an opportunity to view occupied and unoccupied classrooms, staff only areas, change over of classes & student breaks, and disinfection procedures of the classrooms.

Observations

Overall, the visit served as a good learning opportunity between Fraser Health and the Panorama Ridge administrative team.

The following general observations noted at the time of inspection:

- Size of learning groups were within the provincial guidelines.
- Physical distancing measures were implemented in common areas such as hallways, lockers, and library.
- Usage of masks by staff and students within the school in the common areas.
- No congregation of students within the school during the junior lunch break.
- Hand sanitizers were located at the main entrance into the building and in each of the classrooms.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols within the school.
- Itinerant staff following established guidelines when interacting with students.

Recommendations

Based on the guidelines used to complete the inspection processes, the following recommendations are being provided to further help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the school.

All of the recommendations are within the scope of the BCCDC & Ministry of Health COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings (September 11, 2020), and Ministry of Education Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings (September 3, 2020).

- Staff areas:
 - Eliminate any shared utensils or dishware in the staff lunch-room.
 - No table sharing unless there is a 2 meters separation or physical barrier in between. Tables are usually short or circular and people are within 2 meters of each other. The number of chairs available for seating should equal the occupancy limit for the room.
 - Ensure hard surface disinfectant approved by Health Canada for COVID-19 is available in shared spaces. Signs should be posted to remind people to disinfect equipment after each use such as: fridge, toaster ovens, kettles, or microwaves.

- Classrooms:
 - Face or mouth shields should only be used as a supplementary to face masks as a face covering material. This will be aligned with the definition of “face covering” under the current Provincial Mask Order.
 - Remove fabric furniture and potentially rugs/carpets that can not be adequately disinfected.
 - Although mentioned in the current guidelines that pods setup (face 2 face) noticed during the inspection is not encouraged. Consider alternatives to classroom configurations that would limit students from facing each other.
- Gymnasium
 - Disinfection protocols of equipment such as balls, rackets, sticks.
 - Discourage the use of gym equipment that cannot be disinfected such as foam pool noodles.
- Band or music
 - Students should be socially distanced and ideally in a straight line and not behind or above each other.
 - The music teacher should be 3 meters away from the performers or have physical barriers (much like the requirements in our food order).
- Area of congregation
 - Limit the mixing or congregation of different cohorts during the start of school, lunch breaks and afterschool dismissals. This includes in in unsupervised areas such as parking lot and field areas.
 - Encourage cohorts to stay together during breaks.
- Cleaning/Disinfecting:
 - Schedule fogging of classrooms to off school hours to prevent potential congregation of students in the hallways and for the chemical to act as a potential irritant.

Conclusion

Schools have a very complex environment as there is a large contingent of students, teachers, and staff that need to work collectively within a set of guidelines. Teachers, staff and administration team at Panorama Ridge Secondary has demonstrated a strong commitment to ensure the health and safety of all students, support staff and teachers is maintained.