

NISGA'A SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92
School Specific Operational Procedures for Restart



Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we have been working to figure out how to plan for this new school year. Starting September 14th, in-class learning at NESS will resume on a part-time schedule that reflects input from parents and trustees. This schedule will be shared with families in the coming days. We are also working to support the care needs for our Essential Service Workers; if you haven't already been contacted by the school, please connect with the secretary.

We care about you and are working to put processes in place to ensure the safety of everyone as well as provide a rich and engaging school experience. As we work through this process with you, we will adjust our planning as needed in order to best meet our students' needs. We have missed you and look forward to having you back at NESS!

The following information will help answer many questions regarding what a return to school will look like and as always, please reach out with additional questions (mkoebel@nisgaa.bc.ca or jborosa@nisgaa.bc.ca).

LEARNING GROUPS/COHORTS

Every student will be assigned to a learning group. A learning group is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout a school term and who primarily interact with each other.

PARENT VISITS TO SCHOOL

Entry to the school is limited to students and staff. All community, parent and student appointments will be booked with Tina via email (cpercival@nisgaa.bc.ca) or phone call (250-633-2225).

DAILY SCREENING FOR ILLNESS

Parents are asked to monitor their children's wellness daily and to not send them to school if they are sick. Please read and sign the Daily Health Check Form to confirm that you understand the process for screening your child prior to sending her/him to school. Anyone who is sick is not allowed to be in the school. If your child has any symptoms, call 8-1-1.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Students should arrive at school between 8:30 and 8:45 am. Entry and exit will be through assigned doorways. A staff member will greet your child and monitor entry and exiting. Students will bring backpacks to their personal learning space and then wash hands at their classroom sink. Staff will instruct children on proper handwashing procedures. After proper hand hygiene is complete, your child will return to his/her personal learning space.

At the end of their in-class learning time, children will be dismissed from the same door they used for entry, after thoroughly washing their hands.

HALLWAY TRAFFIC

It is expected that everyone will stay right when walking in hallways. Signage will be in place to remind everyone about directional flow of movement.

HAND HYGIENE

Students will be asked to wash their hands frequently, including upon entering the school. Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is expected, especially after blowing the nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. Washing hands with soap and water is the preferable method, wherever possible. Many classrooms at NESS have at least one sink with a soap dispenser and paper towel and students will primarily use their classroom sink for hand washing as these stations are easily supervised. Students will use washroom sinks as appropriate. Hand sanitizer will be available when sinks are not. Hand hygiene visuals are posted at all sinks. Staff will have hand sanitizer outside during breaks and outdoor learning times in order to further support hand hygiene.

RESPIRATORY (COUGHING & SNEEZING) ETIQUETTE

Coughing or sneezing will be done into the elbow or a tissue, with the tissue (if used) being disposed of, followed by hand washing. Students are to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth and avoid close contact with anyone who is sick.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

There is the expectation that staff and secondary students maintain physical distance as much as is practicable. Primary and elementary students are expected to minimize/limit physical contact.

Learning activities will be planned with these guidelines in mind.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Non-medical masks are required to be used in situations where a person cannot maintain physical distance and is in close proximity to a person outside of their learning group or household. Staff and students in secondary school are required to wear masks in high traffic areas such as on buses and in common areas such as hallways, or wherever physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Non-medical masks are not recommended for elementary students due to the increased likelihood they will touch their face and eyes, as well as requiring assistance to properly put on and take off their mask (requiring increased close personal contact from school staff). No student will be forced to wear a mask if it is deemed to be intolerable.

STUDENT BELONGINGS

Student belongings should be labelled, and each student's school supplies and snacks should be transported back and forth from school in a backpack. If your child has borrowed a laptop from the school, they are asked to bring it to school on their designated day(s). Please pack it in such a way that it does not become damaged on the trip to and from school. Students should bring a **filled**, labelled water bottle. It is yet to be determined if students will have access to lockers.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Students are not to share food, drink, or personal items with others.

SCHOOL CLEANING

Schools will be cleaned more frequently, before and after each learning group uses their learning space. Washrooms and high touch points (door knobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks, chairs, electronic devices, and keyboards) will be cleaned regularly (at least every 3 hours), as will any surface that is visibly dirty. More general cleaning and disinfecting will occur at least once a day.

STAGGERING OF RECESS & TRANSITIONS

Your child's teacher will determine appropriate recess and other break times in order to avoid over-crowding our field and playground.

STUDENT SPACING IN CLASSROOMS & FOR ALL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Teachers and support staff have set up classrooms so that each student has his/her own learning space. Students are expected to stay within their assigned learning space. Teachers will remove or limit the use of frequently touched items that are not easily cleaned, such as fabric or soft items. Teachers will limit the use of shared equipment, as much as is practical to do so.

PROTOCOLS IF A STUDENT BECOMES ILL

If a student develops symptoms at school, they will be isolated from others in a supervised area, and families will be called to pick them up immediately. The protocol that will be followed will align with the Public Health Guidelines for K-12 School Settings.

Our school plan is aligned with the Nisga'a School District COVID-19 Response plan which is informed by current WorkSafe BC protocols, BC Centre for Disease Control Guidance for K-12 School Settings, and Ministry of Education Guideline for K-12 Schools. Links to these documents are provided here:

[https://www.nisgaa.bc.ca/source/S-D-%2092%20\(NISGAA\)%20COVID-19%20Response%20Plan%20Aug24.pdf](https://www.nisgaa.bc.ca/source/S-D-%2092%20(NISGAA)%20COVID-19%20Response%20Plan%20Aug24.pdf)

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

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidlines.pdf>

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf