



# Okanagan Indian Band

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## EDUCATION UPDATE

Way̓ x̓ast s̓x̓l̓x̓l̓t students, parents and staff.

Within the Interior Health Authority, the numbers of reported COVID-19 cases remain relatively low as compared to other Health Authorities.

*As of December 29, 2021 there were 374 new cases announced Wednesday, bringing active cases to 1,576 of which 114 (7%) of those active cases were of the Omicron variant. There are 39 people hospitalized and 22 people in critical care in the BC Interior Health Region.*

*Source CBC BC News*

Keeping schools open is an important part of the mental health and social wellbeing of the students and staff. Therefore, at this moment, **OKIB education programs will open as scheduled on January 4, 2022**. If the numbers of COVID cases rise, then OKIB will take the necessary and immediate steps relative to the risk. The school, daycare and nest programs are important to the overall health and wellbeing of the children and the community. It may be necessary to close the school in the future as caseloads increase drastically in our region so it's important to offer school programming while the risk is still relatively low.

Parents are not obligated to send their children to the school, daycare or nest programs if they feel it is unsafe to do so. If you decide to keep your child at home please inform the school, daycare and/or nest staff of your intentions.

The rationale for this decision is that locally, hospitals are able to support current COVID caseloads and among OKIB membership and staff, the vaccination rates are high. In addition, the COVID safety protocols implemented for the school, daycare and language nest, have resulted in no COVID transmission throughout the months of November and December.

We urge all OKIB members to stay vigilant as the Omicron variant has symptoms that are relatively mild, much like the common cold. If you feel sick or have cold-like symptoms please stay home and isolate. If these symptoms progress, contact the OKIB Health Department 250-241-7595.

The OKIB Health Department will be hosting a vaccination clinic (January 6, 2022) for all ages (5+ years and up) and those wanting booster shots.

- **snc'c'amala?tn** will open January 4, 2022. Daycare safety COVID-19 safety plan may be reviewed <https://okib.ca/uploads/files/COVID-19-Health-and-Safety-Plan-for-Parents.pdf>

- **ckʷu kʷ ʔlap il skʷkʷʔilt naʔ ʔxəxʔxap** will open January 4, 2021 and follows the same safety plan as described for the daycare.
- **nkmaplqs iʔ snmamaʔaʔtn iʔ kl sqilxʷtət** will open January 4, 2021. The School COVID-19 safety plan may be reviewed at <https://okib.ca/uploads/files/COVID19-Health-and-Safety-Plan-for-staff.pdf>
- All Provincial schools will follow the Ministry of Education’s request to re-open on January 10, 2022.
- Vernon Christian and Saint James are currently in discussion with their school authorities to determine what action they will take regarding school re-opening. OKIB will update membership on their decisions when available.

Parents, students and staff are encouraged to use the Provincial **health check app** that can be downloaded to help you assess the daily wellness of your young student  
<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e2s1>

In the meantime, stay strong and stay safe.

Lim’ ləmt | Thank you



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