



Okanagan Indian Band

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EDUCATION UPDATE

Way̓ x̓ast s̓ł̓x̓ł̓t students, parents and staff.

The next couple months will seem like a roller-coaster ride for everyone! There will be staff shortages throughout the daycare, language nest and school. We will try our best to keep the doors open as we firmly believe that keeping children in school is the best option.

The school (including the new modular classrooms), the language nest, and the daycare all have specialized air filtration systems (medical grade) that can help to keep the air clean. Staff will continue to keep children outdoors as much as possible, utilizing our outdoor classrooms. Hand washing and masking indoors will be practiced by all staff and children.

Unfortunately, this week (January 10-14) there will be **no lunch service at the cultural immersion school**. Staff will organize a pizza day on Monday; however, **parents must pack their children a lunch each day for Tuesday through Friday** of this week. Please consider health choices.

I can confirm that the school bus will be in service Monday morning.

Please make sure your child is masked before they get-on the school bus and remind them to keep their mask on throughout the ride to school.

Please make sure to monitor your child's health each morning before making the decision for them to go to school. If your child exhibits any symptoms associated with COVID-19 please keep them at home and have them assessed by a health professional. A sick child will infect staff. If there are too many sick staff, then the school and daycare will have to close. If you have not already, please consider having your child vaccinated.

Please Do Not Send a Sick Child to School

What to look for each morning...

- Fever* or chills (**In children a fever can also include a loss of appetite, fatigue, and grumpy behavior**)
- Cough
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Headache and/or Body aches
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea

If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep them at home until symptoms subside. Rapid test kits will arrive soon (tentatively January 14) and these will be made available to staff, students and parents. If your child tests positive for COVID-19 then they will have to isolate at home for 14 days. Please work with staff to get homework for your child during the isolation period. If your child tests negative and is symptom free then they can return to the school, daycare and/or language nest.

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 or your intentions.

All OKIB members must remain 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.**

- **snc’c’amala?tn** COVID-19 safety plan may be reviewed <https://okib.ca/uploads/files/COVID-19-Health-and-Safety-Plan-for-Parents.pdf>
- **ck’wu k’w’ lap il sk’k’w’ilt nał łxəłxəp** follows the same safety plan as described for the daycare.
- **nkmaplqs i? snmama?tn i? kl sqilxwtət** COVID-19 safety plan may be reviewed at <https://okib.ca/uploads/files/COVID19-Health-and-Safety-Plan-for-staff.pdf>

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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