

Dear Interior Region families and students,

The new school year is upon us and we are committed to supporting a safe return to in-person classes, recreational, and social activities throughout the region.

We have worked closely with School District and provincial partners to develop [Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#). In addition to this provincial guidance, due to increased COVID-19 activity throughout the Interior region, we have issued additional recommendations to School Districts including:

- Indoor assemblies are limited to 50 people or two classes (whatever is larger), in a single space.
- Visitors entering the school should be limited to those supporting activities that are of benefit to student learning and wellbeing (e.g. teacher candidates, immunizers, meal program volunteers, etc.).
- Extracurricular school sports should follow the [Interior Health Order](#) for Gatherings & Events, where sports and tournaments are allowed. Spectators should be limited to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.

To ensure eligible people have as many options as possible to get immunized, Interior Health is bringing COVID-19 vaccine clinics to schools for students and staff. These clinic dates and times will be updated regularly as they are confirmed, please check for the latest school-hosted clinic dates here: <https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news/covid-19-immunization-clinics/>

As you may know, students 12 and older can provide “mature minor consent” to Interior Health by demonstrating they understand the benefits and risks of getting immunized.

To learn more about mature minor consent visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/informed-consent-for-immunization>

As a parent/guardian, you’re welcome to accompany your child at the time of vaccination.

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself, your family, and your community from the virus that causes COVID-19. The Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccines are safe and highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

Everyone eligible who is entering a school is strongly encouraged to get fully vaccinated.

We wish everyone a safe and happy school season and extend our gratitude to all educators, staff, students and families for doing everything they can to continue keeping schools safe throughout the Interior Region.

Sincerely,

Healthy School Team
Interior Health – Public Health

We recognize and acknowledge that we are collectively gathered on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the seven Interior Region First Nations, where we live, learn, collaborate, and work together. This region is also home to 15 Chartered Métis Communities. It is with humility that we continue to strengthen our relationships with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples across the Interior.