



Education (E-7)

PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

March 31, 2021

Dear parents/guardians of Grade 10-12 students at F.H. Collins Secondary, Porter Creek Secondary, and Vanier Catholic Secondary:

RE: Grades 10-12 students in Whitehorse to return to full-time, in-class learning April 19

Today, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Brendan Hanley, and the Deputy Minister of Education, Nicole Morgan, announced that students in Grades 10-12 at F.H. Collins, Porter Creek and Vanier Catholic secondary schools will return to full-day, in-class learning starting Monday April 19, 2021.

At-home learning on April 15 and 16

We will be working with principals and school councils to plan adjustments to school operations and identify any changes needed to course schedules and timetables for students. To support this effort, two planning days are scheduled ahead of this transition:

- Thursday, April 15, 2021
- Friday, April 16, 2021

Students will not attend school during these two days. They will continue their learning away from school while school staff use this additional time for planning an effective transition back to full-time, in-class learning.

Transitioning safely

We know being away from school has impacted learning and mental wellness in students. From the outset of the pandemic, our goal has been to ensure as many students can be safely learning in class as possible. We are fortunate in Yukon that case numbers have been low and the vaccine has been steadily rolling out to the general public. Based on the low-risk of COVID-19 in the territory, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health has indicated we are in a position to welcome Grades 10-12 students back to full-time, in-class learning and has provided health and safety guidance to do so.

The updated health and safety guidelines provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health will inform how school operational plans are adjusted ahead of April 19, 2021. These guidelines do allow for relaxing some of the requirements around physical distancing, which will support our efforts

to return these students to full-time, in-class learning. They can be viewed here: yukon.ca/en/health-safety-schools-covid-19.

While we have more flexibility when it comes to physical distancing in these three schools, the guidelines also reiterate the importance of following general health and safety measures to keep the risk of COVID-19 low. As part of an overall approach to keeping students, staff and our communities safe, all schools will continue to follow best health and safety practices, including:

- staying home when sick or showing symptoms;
- practicing proper hand hygiene;
- maximizing physical distancing where possible;
- using a non-medical mask where physical distancing is not possible;
- limiting prolonged face-to-face contact wherever possible.

Busing needs

We recognize that some adjustments to busing will need to take place to accommodate those students currently on the afternoon schedule who will need to transition to a morning pickup. We are working with our operations team to make those adjustments, and more details will be communicated as soon as they are available.

For more information:

As plans for returning to full-time, in-class learning are finalized, further updates and information will come to parents/guardians directly from the school.

You can also visit yukon.ca/education-and-school-supports-covid-19 for information on health and safety, school operations and learning during COVID-19.

Thank you for your time and attention to this update.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Sikkes', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ryan Sikkes
ADM of Schools and Student Services