

September 2022

# Re: Fraser Health's Healthy Back to School Guide

Dear parents, guardians and students in the Fraser Health region,

We look forward to the 2022/2023 school year and continuing to support the health and well-being of school communities in our region. We are sharing the following web resources and information about public health services with you to support a healthy and safe return to school for all students and their families/guardians.

### School health resources:

Check out our <u>Healthy Back to School Guide</u> (fraserhealth.ca/schools) for information on how to help children manage back to school anxiety, eat healthily, safely travel to and from school and sleep well resources for parents/guardians and children around overdose awareness and prevention, substance use, gender and sexual identity, and healthy relationships.

# **COVID-19** guidance for schools

For updated provincial guidance and information about schools and COVID-19, visit the <u>British Columbia Centre</u> for Disease Control (BCCDC) Schools web resource.

#### Immunizations:

### Immunizations Kindergarten entry, Grade 6 and Grade 9

Children can receive their **Kindergarten entry** immunizations starting at age 4 and should receive the recommended vaccines prior to school entry. Information on how to book Kindergarten immunizations can be found on our <u>children and youth immunizations</u> page.

In B.C., <u>school-aged children and teens</u> are offered vaccines in **Grade 6 and Grade 9**. Grade 6 and Grade 9 students can receive these <u>immunizations by public health nurses at school clinics</u>. Information and consent forms for Grade 6 and Grade 9 students will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss <u>consent for immunization</u> with their children.

#### **COVID-19** immunizations

In addition to the above immunizations, all children and youth are encouraged to be up-to-date on COVID-19 immunizations. Currently everyone 6 months of age and older is eligible for COVID-19 immunizations.

Booster shots are available for everyone aged 5 and older this fall.

#### COVID-19 vaccines are not provided at school clinics.

We encourage all children and youth to be registered at <u>gov.bc.ca/GetVaccinated</u> so they will be notified appointments.