



HUSKIES

Volume 2021/22-8

January 11, 2022

Principal ~ Mrs. W. Kelemen

Admin. Assistant ~ Mrs. J. Vossen

Decker Lake Elementary School



Office Hours: 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM

Principal's Message

During the week of January 4th, our school staff completed the updated health and safety orientation and prepared an emergency work package for every student to complete if our school must functionally close for 1 + days. If it should close for a short period of time, the teachers have prepared these emergency work packages which students will be asked to bring home in the coming days. You are encouraged to keep this package tucked away in a safe corner of your home so you can readily access it if your child needs to stay home due to a staffing shortage or COVID-19 outbreak. The package contains multiple days of activities related to the key areas of numeracy, literacy, and social-emotional learning. Like your first aid kit at home, we have prepared these emergency work packages in hopes that you will not need them, but you will have them should the worst-case scenario of a functional school closure unfold. To help us keep our school healthy and open, we ask that you keep your child at home if they have a cough or any other COVID-19 symptom and that they bring a well-fitted mask to school each day. In closing, please look for a more detailed handout from our school regarding our Continuity of Learning Plan in your Canada Post mailbox. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Stay healthy!

Respectfully,
Mrs. Kelemen, Principal

Mark your Calendar

January

- 11 Virtual PAC Meeting—6PM
- 26 Hot Lunch

February

- 9 Hot Lunch
- 9 Parent Ski Trip Meeting 9PM
- 10 Moosehide Campaign
- 11 Pro-D Day—No School
- 21 Family Day—No School
- 24 Pink Shirt Day
- 25 District Science Fair

March

- 4 Report Cards go home
- 8 Intermediate Ski Trip
- 14 Kindergarten Registrations open
- 18 Last Day before Spring Break

COVID-19 Omicron Variant and DLES

We are living in interesting times! At the moment, BC (and the rest of the world) is in the middle of yet another wave of COVID-19 but this time, we are being exposed to the Omicron variant. This one, while it seems to have less of a health impact, appears to affect younger children more than the other variants. It has mutated and is highly contagious—where even the air may be infected with breath! It can also be deadly to people who are immuno-compromised. Mrs. Vossen lost a dear family member to Omicron on Jan. 10.

To protect our children and people who have weak immune systems, and to protect our students and staff, please do health checks with your children before sending them to school. If your children don't have any of the symptoms below, please send them to school. If they do, please keep them home. If your child shows signs of illness while at school, they will be sent home. Please ensure you have a childcare plan in place every day in case your child must go home.

At DLES, the staff are doing our parts by completing our health checks before we start work too, and staying home if we have any symptoms.

Thank you for doing your part to keep all of us healthy so we can continue to learn, work, and play!

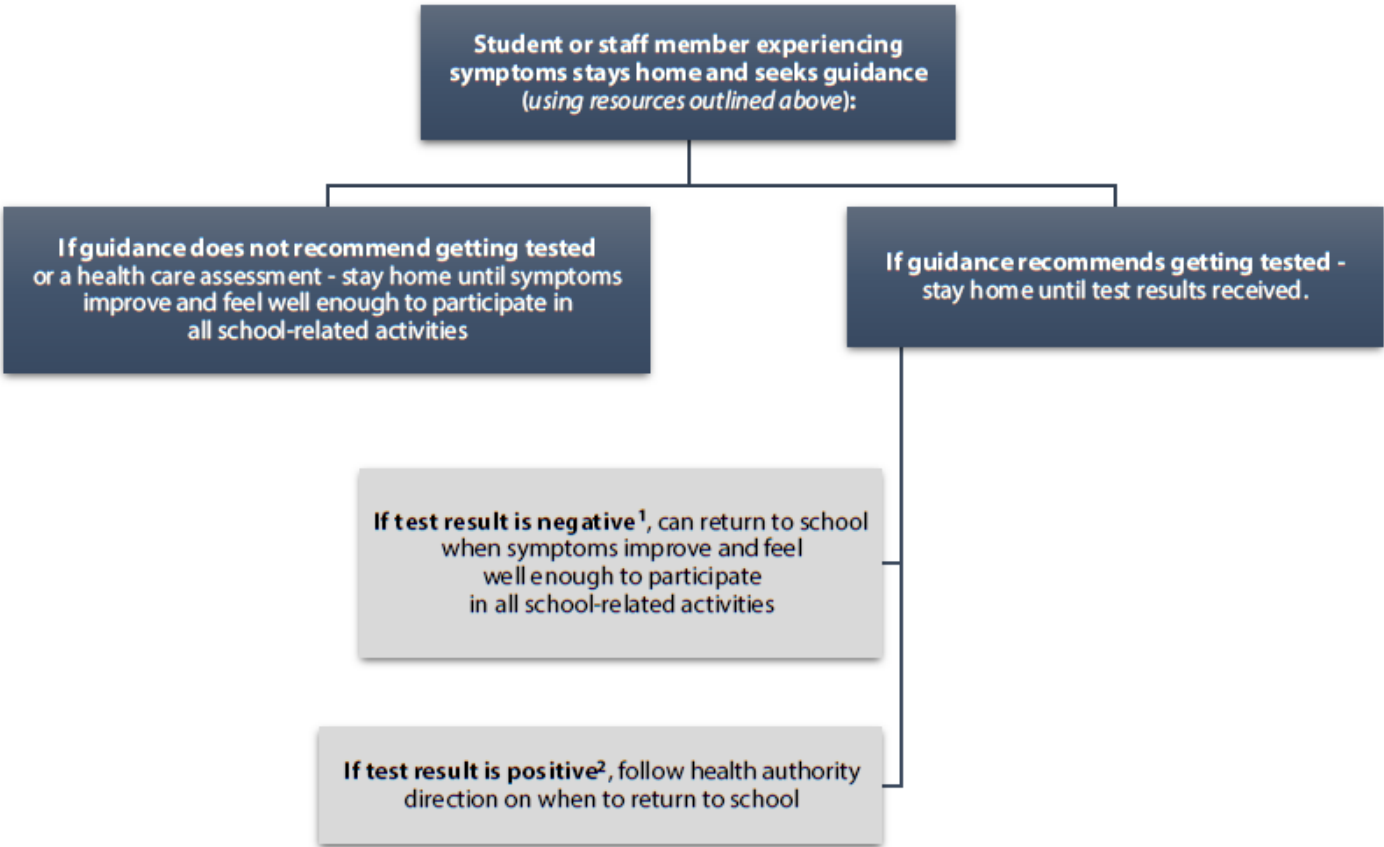
The BC Govt. has put out an easy-to-use site to do health checks with your children before you send them to school. They even have free apps that you can download onto your cell phone. Check out the site below:

<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>

 DAILY HEALTH CHECK	
KEY SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS	WHAT TO DO
Fever (above 38°C)	If yes to 1 or more of these symptoms: Stay home. Contact a health care provider or call 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.
Chills	
Cough	
Difficulty breathing	
Loss of sense of smell or taste	
OTHER SYMPTOMS	WHAT TO DO
Sore throat	If yes to 1 symptom: Stay home until you feel better.
Loss of appetite	
Headache	If yes to 2 or more of these symptoms: Stay home for 24 hours. If symptoms don't get better or get worse, contact a health care provider or call 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.
Body aches	
Extreme fatigue or tiredness	
Nausea or vomiting	
Diarrhea	

Appendix A: COVID-19 Symptoms, Testing & Return to School

When a student, staff or other adult can return to school depends on the type of symptoms they experienced and if a COVID-19 test is recommended. See the [K-12 Health Check app](#) and BCCDC “[When to get tested for COVID-19](#)” resource for specific guidance. Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online [Self-Assessment Tool](#), or call 8-1-1 or their health care provider.



1. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more. Re-testing is not needed unless the person develops a new illness. [BCCDC](#) has information on receiving negative test results.

2. Public health will contact everyone with a positive test. Visit the [BCCDC website](#) for more information on [positive test results](#).

■ Our school will closely monitor daily attendance. **Please call the school if your child’s absence is related to illness** (cough, fever/chills, sore throat, loss of smell/taste, difficulty breathing, loss of appetite, extreme fatigue, headache, body aches, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, runny nose). **If our attendance dips beyond a threshold, we will send a notification** to the DLES community to indicate that a public health-determined threshold for a grade or school has been met. The school district, Medical Health Officer, and the Ministry of Education will determine **if we need to implement a functional closure**.

■ Anyone who has tested positive using a rapid test should **complete the online reporting tool** provided by public health, and provide all school-related information requested.

■ **Parent Visitors will have limited access to the school.** Parents should drop off and pick up their children outside of the school. Please **phone ahead to make an appointment** prior to entering the building. If approved, visitors must complete the daily health check, wear a mask, and sanitize.

■ **Children should bring a proper fitting mask to school each day.** This mask should sit on the bridge of the nose and not slip down. Three-ply masks are encouraged.

■ Public health does not require students or staff to notify our school if they have tested positive for COVID-19, or to notify other staff members at school. **To protect personal privacy, we are unable to provide personal contact information** for the purpose of notifying others of a test result.

■ All **students need to complete the daily health check** prior to boarding a school bus in the morning or entering the building.

■ Staff and students must **stay home if they are sick**.

■ Parents/Caregivers **must pick up their child immediately** if they are notified that their **child is ill**.