



Recommendations for Return to School or Daycare for Children with CF

August 13, 2020

British Columbia Return to School Plan:

The government has announced that all schools in BC (Kindergarten to Grade 12) will reopen in September, with the first day of class for students being September 10. The BC government and the BC Center for Disease Control (BCCDC) continue to provide detailed and up to date information on this; here are a few highlighted areas of the province's return to school plan:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school/expect-stage-2>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools#Schools>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school/learning-groups>

What Does this Mean for my Child with Cystic Fibrosis:

The BCCH Cystic Fibrosis Clinic recommends that **children with CF should follow the *general public's* BC CDC guidelines for return to school and/or daycare.** We recognize that planning a return to school for your child with CF may be stressful for you and/or them, and encourage you to reach out to your CF clinic should you have specific questions or concerns. In addition, the BC government has indicated that parents will continue to have choices regarding their child's educational program:

“Parents who do not want to their child to attend in-person classes at a public or independent school have the option to register their child for online and distributed learning (based on program availability) or home-schooling”.

Points of consideration for CF Parents:

- All children attending school should complete a daily self-assessment (done by parents in most cases) for symptoms of possible COVID-19. You should be prepared that since symptoms of CF respiratory illnesses can be similar to some of the symptoms of COVID-19, your child may need to either self-isolate or have COVID-19 testing done (and not return to school until results obtained) at different points throughout the school year. While this is unfortunate and disruptive, it will be necessary in these situations since you/we cannot guarantee that a new

cough, for example, is not due to the novel coronavirus. In these situations please contact the CF nurses office to determine the safest course of action for your child.

- Regarding the issue of wearing masks at school or daycare: it is our recommendation that children with CF should follow the general guidelines which at this time stipulate that children are **NOT** required to wear a mask in their classroom.
- We continue to follow national and international data on children with CF who acquire COVID-19 and to date, there is no evidence that the novel coronavirus has a significant impact on CF lung disease in otherwise healthy children.

CF Nurses Office:

Patients 0-2 years old: Mon-Fri 8:00-4:00

(604) 875-2623/ Toll Free 1-888-300-3088, Local 2623

Patients 2-18 years old: Mon-Thurs and every other Friday, 8:00-4:00

(604) 875-2345, Local 7005; Toll Free 1-888-300-3088, Local 7005