



Board of Education
School District No. 50 (Haida Gwaii)
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Carey Stewart
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May 28, 2020

Dear Families,

On Friday, May 15th, 2020, the provincial government outlined a plan for the gradual easing of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Included in this plan is a measured approach to phasing in a return to learning in classrooms. Our schools have been safe throughout this pandemic, and plans are being implemented to ensure they will continue to be as the return to in-class learning progresses and more students are in our schools.

School District 50 was also in receipt of a letter from the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) on May 21st 2020 requesting that schools continue with online learning.

We are in support of the Council of the Haida Nation's declaration of the State of Emergency, and recognize the importance of protecting the Haida elders, language, and knowledge keepers of the Haida Nation. SD 50 wishes to adhere to the protections that the CHN has outlined.

As such, School District 50 will remain open for students of essential service workers, students in need and will extend those services in all district schools. Online and distance learning will continue to be offered throughout the district.

School District 50 is in dialogue with the Council of the Haida Nation as to when schools can be reopened to students for in-class instruction, a manner that honours the unique circumstances that Haida Gwaii is currently facing.

We appreciate the patience of students, family, community, and staff as we continue to engineer a safe return for all students of SD50.

District Recourse Information:

- [SD 50 COVID-19 Updates](#)
- <https://sd50.bc.ca/covid-19-updates/>

Sincerely,

Carey Stewart
Superintendent of Schools

HAIDA NATION ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Preference will be given to Haida Gwaii residents to provide essential work services. When off-island essential workers are necessary, a permit is required from the Council of the Haida Nation. Permits can take 7-10 days to process, contact: <essentialworkpermits@haidanation.com>

- 1. Essential Health Care Operations, Including:** research and laboratory services • hospitals • walk-in-care health facilities • emergency veterinary and livestock services • elder care • medical supply wholesale and distribution • home health care workers or aides for the elderly • doctor and emergency dental • nursing homes, or residential health care facilities or congregate care facilities • medical supplies and equipment manufacturers and providers • ambulance service • mental health services • pharmacies • Haida Traditional medicine & healing practitioners • Health Centres • counselling services
- 2. Essential Infrastructure, Including:** utilities including power generation, fuel supply fire wood suppliers, and transmission • public water and wastewater • telecommunications and data centers • airports/airlines • transportation infrastructure such as trucking of freight or for-hire vehicles, garages, BC Ferries • hotels and places of accommodation
- 3. Essential Production, Including:** food processing, manufacturing agents, including all foods and beverages • agriculture/farms • local food and medicine gathering (including fishing/hunting/trapping) • woodworking (carving) • local wood processing for local use
- 4. Essential Retail, Including:** grocery stores including all food and beverage stores • pharmacies • convenience stores • farmer's markets • gas stations • restaurants/bars (but only for takeout/delivery) • hardware and building material store • animal and livestock feed • cannabis
- 5. Financial institutions, including:** banks • insurance • payroll • accounting

- 6. Essential Services, including:** trash collection, processing and disposal • mail and shipping services • laundromats • building cleaning and maintenance • child care services for essential service providers • auto inboard and outboard repair/small engine repair • warehouse/distribution and fulfillment • funeral homes and cemeteries • storage for essential businesses • animal shelters
- 7. Providers of Basic Necessities to Economically Disadvantaged Populations, Including:** homeless shelters and congregate care facilities • food banks • human services providers whose function includes the direct care of patients in licensed or funded voluntary programs; the care, protection, custody and oversight of individuals both in the community and in licensed residential facilities; those operating community shelters and other critical human services agencies providing direct care or support • child care services
- 8. Construction, Including:** skilled trades such as electricians, plumbers • other related construction firms and professionals for essential infrastructure or for emergency repair and safety purposes
- 9. Essential Services Necessary to Maintain the Safety, Sanitation and Essential Operations of Culture, Residences and Other Essential Businesses, including:** law enforcement • fire prevention and response • security • emergency management and response • building cleaners or janitors • general maintenance whether employed by the entity directly or a vendor • automotive repair • disinfection • Haida Nation and municipal governance • Haida Gwaii Watchmen Program
- 10. Vendors that Provide Essential Services or Products, Including Technology Support, Child Care and Services, including:** technology support for online services • child care programs and services • government owned or leased buildings • essential government services

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