



## Pearson's Restart Plan – Important Information

17 June 2020

**Dear Students, Parents and Guardians of Year 46 and Year 47 Incoming Students and UWC National Committees,**

I am pleased to share with you important and specific news about our Pearson College UWC Restart Plan. Together with everyone at the College, we look forward to welcoming our new and returning students **on campus** on 24 August for the 2020-21 school year.

With this letter, I have attached an important document. I encourage you to read the detailed **Special Arrival Procedures for Fall 2020**, because it includes relevant information about how and when students coming to campus must arrive to allow us to maintain the highest safety standards for all students, staff and residents. Within the coming weeks, we will also share with you a summary of our **Pearson College UWC Restart Plan** that outlines several health and safety measures and procedures we are putting in place to ensure that the campus is a safe living and working environment.

I must emphasize that details in both this letter and the Special Arrival Procedures for Fall 2020 **may change or be updated** as factors such as the COVID-19 situation in various parts of the world, including our Vancouver Island region, quarantine periods, visa availability, border openings and closings and access to international travel are revised by public health and government authorities between now and August. Like you, we wish we had all the answers but, also like you, we understand that flexibility and good will are important for all of us during this pandemic.

I promise that we will continue to keep you updated as we work to welcome students from around the world and across Canada to a unique Pearson College UWC educational experience.

In the meantime, we continue to work closely with our fellow independent schools across the Province of British Columbia (B.C.). Collectively, we are also consulting with Ministry of Education and Public Health leaders to ensure that schools that welcome international students are equipped and ready to provide a fulfilling and safe experience. The informal feedback we've heard is very optimistic and that B.C. is a safe place for international students.

Wherever you are across Canada or around the world, I am sure you are aware of the impact of the pandemic on your local communities and countries and that you are following public health officials' instruction and directives for the safety and well-being of your family and your community.

B.C., with leadership from [Public Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry](#) and Health Minister Adrian Dix, together with a proactive citizenry committed to "flattening the curve," continues to show very promising results in managing the fight against COVID-19. [Island Health](#), the health region that includes [Vancouver Island](#), where Pearson is located, reports that, as of 16 June, a total of 130 cases

have been identified since the beginning of the pandemic. Of these, 125 people have recovered. This link to the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) website provides an up-to-date look at the situation in the province – click on “Vancouver Island” in the top right corner to view the Island Health situation.

B.C. is currently in Phase 2 of a [provincial Restart Plan](#) with Phase 3 expected to begin within the next few weeks. On 1 June, public schools in the province re-opened for voluntary student attendance.

While there are more details in the attached message, I would like to highlight some key points for you to be aware of as we move closer to the beginning of the school term in August. Again, I remind you that some of this information may be revised and updated.

**Student Visas:** As we have advised, we strongly encourage students, with support from parents/guardians, to continue to apply for Canadian student visas. We at Pearson continue to work with other independent schools while Provincial authorities continue to work with the federal Canadian government on [visa and immigration matters](#). Please do not hesitate to contact our Admissions Officer Fatma Dogus ([fdogus@perasoncollege.ca](mailto:fdogus@perasoncollege.ca)).

**Travel Plans and Arrival Dates:** While international and, to a certain extent, domestic, air travel continues to be impacted by the pandemic, we urge you to review the campus arrival date in the **Special Arrival Procedures for Fall 2020** document attached and make flight arrangements with respect to this intake date. Please also check with respective airlines for their latest policies on rebooking and refunds and, as necessary, purchase coverage to allow you to cancel or change flights. A specific, coordinated intake date is necessary to ensure that quarantine and safe campus measures are maintained. We urge you to get in touch with us if you anticipate that your student may be affected by **unavoidable** delays.

**Mandatory Quarantine Period:** All international and Canadian students arriving in Victoria must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. The College is looking to arrange single-person quarantine rooms off-campus at a safe location to be finalized.

**Orientation Program:** The College is planning a robust, supervised welcome and orientation program for all students during the mandatory quarantine period. Students’ physical health will be regularly monitored, and mental health supports will be in place. As this program is finalized, we will share details with incoming students.

**Campus Life Mandatory Health and Safety Protocols:** While we are fortunate that our campus is in a rural, somewhat-isolated location, the health and safety of all on campus – students, faculty, staff and residents – depends upon **everyone** following specific protocols and behaviours to reduce the risk of virus transmission. When finalized, the **Pearson College UWC Restart Plan** will outline individual behaviours and actions necessary while living and learning on campus. These individual actions complement College operating measures and procedures such as increased cleaning and food services protocols, including scheduled mealtimes for smaller groups of students, installation of equipment to reduce touchpoints, such as automatic-opening doors, controlled entrances, motion controlled hand washing faucets, physical distancing in classrooms and other campus locations as well as installation of clear signage and hand sanitizer stations around campus. Together with these, other measures will be in place to limit access onto campus to essential workers and visitors and to ensure daily health checks for employees who live off campus. Most of our staff have been working from home for the past few months and, where feasible, staff will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. In the next few

weeks, we will finalize a new **Residential Life Manual** that outlines these in detail and will be shared with incoming students.

**Blended Learning and Education:** We know that students are looking forward to the challenging and experiential education that Pearson is known for but that some may face unavoidable delays in arriving on campus. With that in mind, the College will be prepared to offer online initial learning to those students unable to immediately travel.

As I wrote in an earlier message to Year 47 families, thank you for allowing your child to follow the dream of a global education in the company of nearly 200 other extraordinary young people from across Canada and around the world. At the best of times, I know as a parent that it is sometimes difficult to let your children go as they embark on their life journey. During this COVID-19 pandemic, I am sure it is even more challenging to see them off on a new or continuing adventure away from home and the immediate support of family.

Here at Pearson, we are committed to do our utmost to maintain a safe and healthy environment on campus for all our students, faculty, staff and residents. We look forward to welcoming our students to campus for the 2020-21 school year and promise to ensure all necessary public health directives, and campus protocols will be in place to safely support a fulfilling experiential education for all students.

Best wishes and good health to you and your family.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ty Pile', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Ty Pile**  
**President and Head of College**

**cc: Years 46 & 47 Students, UWC National Committees**