

Contents

General Information	3
Regional Differences	3
Communicable Disease Plans	3
Infection Prevention & Exposure Control Measures – Hierarchy	4
Vaccines	5
Case Management – Northern Health	5
School Exposure Notifications	5
Daily Health Checks - School Staff	5
Health Checks - Students	5
Allergies and Asthma	6
Staff Illness at Work	6
Illness of Close Family Members	6
Visitors Access & Community Use	6
Cleaning and Custodial Services	7
Frequency Guidelines	7
Cleaning Protocols	7
Accidental Exposure to Cleaning or Disinfectant Products	8
Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)	8
Disinfectants	8
Ventilation & Air Exchange	8
Physical Barriers	9
Physical Distancing	9
Learning Groups & Cohorts	9
Gatherings & Events	9
Staff Only Areas	10
SD91- Identification	10
Main Door Access	10
Maintenance Staff Sign-in/Sign-out Procedures	10

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION PLAN

JANUARY 04, 2022

After Hours.....	10
Contractors	10
Transportation	11
Bus - Hand Sanitizing.....	11
Bus - Cleaning and Disinfecting.....	11
Bus - Masks	11
Bus - Ventilation.....	12
Child Illness on the Bus	12
Maintenance and Operations Vehicles.....	12
Masks	13
Cleaning and Disposing of Masks.....	13
Gloves.....	14
First Aid	14
Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees	14
Dedicated Health Room	15
Hand Washing Facilities	15
Sign-in Station	15
Desk/Workstation Placement	15
De-cluttering	16
Toys and Manipulatives	16
Personal Items.....	16
Food	16
Science and Shop Areas	16
Foods Areas.....	17
Art Rooms	17
Music / Singing Classes	17
Instrument Cleaning Guidelines:.....	17
Books and Print Materials.....	18
Gym Equipment	18
Outdoor Play Activities	18

General Information

A Communicable Disease is an illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxic product that can be transmitted in a workplace from one person to another. COVID-19 is an example of a communicable disease.

As COVID-19 vaccinations have become widely available to British Columbians, the overall risk of COVID-19 transmissions and the level of serious consequences related to COVID-19 and its variants has reduced in many regions of the Province.

Based on guidance from the Ministry of Education, school districts are required to develop a *Communicable Disease Prevention Plan* to support K-12 education employees as part of an effective Occupational Health & Safety Program. This plan must adhere to the standards, guidelines and protocols provided by the BCCDC, Ministry of Education and WorkSafeBC.

School Districts are expected to update their *Communicable Disease Prevention Plans* in alignment with updates from the BCCDC, Ministry of Education and WorkSafeBC as the pandemic evolves.

Regional Differences

Northern Health continues to be able to place local *Public Health Orders* requiring additional health and safety measures beyond the guidance in this document at their own discretion, based on authority under provincial legislation. These measures reflect the community activity (transmission) of the virus and its variants.

Communities with low immunization numbers and rising case numbers may receive additional measures that must be implemented.

Examples may include:

- Limits on gatherings & events
- Limits on visitors
- Reconfiguring the use of space
- Increased mask use
- Vaccination requirements

Communicable Disease Plans

A Communicable disease plan focuses on reducing the risk of workplace transmission of COVID-19, its variants, and other communicable diseases and includes both ongoing measures. Due to the fluid nature of communicable diseases, administrators and managers must regularly review the plan with their JOHSC and ensure any identified gaps or additional prevention measures are communicated to the District JOHSC for review and implementation or clarification.

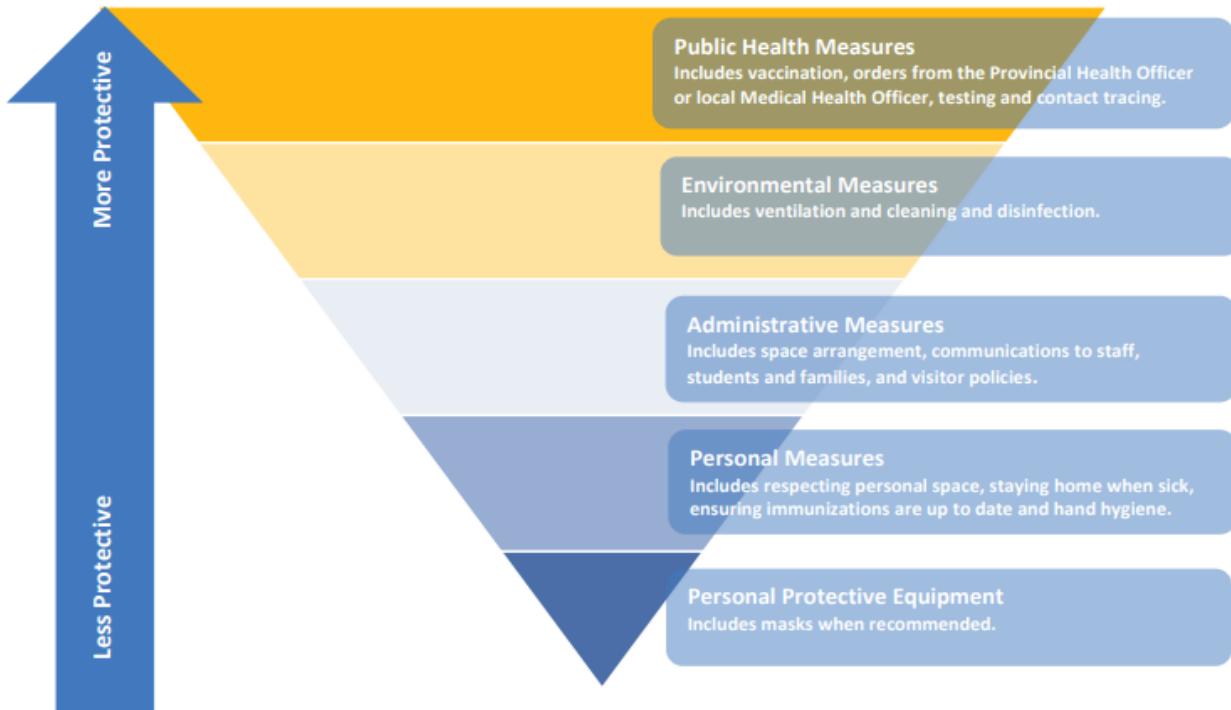
Infection Prevention & Exposure Control Measures – Hierarchy

Infection prevention and exposure control measures (also called communicable disease measures or health & safety measures) help create safe environments by reducing the spread of communicable diseases like COVID-19. These are more effective in settings such as schools where there is a relatively consistent grouping of people and multiple measures of varying effectiveness can be routinely implemented including:

- Robust illness policies for students and staff
- Reinforcement of effective personal practices (handwashing, respiratory etiquette)
- Various environmental measures (cleaning & disinfecting, ventilation/HVAC operations etc.)

The **Hierarchy** for Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease describes measures that should be taken to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in schools. Control measures at the top are more effective and protective than control measures at the bottom of the inverted pyramid. By implementing a combination of measures at each level, the risk of COVID-19 or any communicable disease is substantially reduced.

The Hierarchy for Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease



Hierarchy – Public Health Measures

Vaccines

Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and communities. The vaccines used in BC remain highly effective against COVID-19, including variants of concern. Vaccinated people aged 12 and older tend to have a milder illness if they get infected and are also less likely to spread COVID-19. The BCCDC strongly encourages all eligible staff and students to be fully vaccinated (i.e., receive 2 doses) to protect themselves and those around them. The majority of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths are now among unvaccinated adults. **Exposures in schools will remain if the virus remains in our communities.** Increasing our vaccination numbers, in combination with effective disease measures in our buildings, can reduce exposures and illness.

Case Management – Northern Health

We follow and implement recommendations and orders from Northern Health to minimize exposures and illness in our buildings. Please see “Regional Differences” on page 2.

School Exposure Notifications

Northern Health will be issuing School Exposure Notifications and performing contact tracing. There may be changes in the delivery methods of notification and quarantine may/may not be required if close contacts are fully vaccinated. As in this past year, Northern Health will notify the District of any required actions.

Daily Health Checks - School Staff

- The SD91 Daily Health Check is a two-part process consisting of
 - a) performing the actual health check prior to leaving for work
 - b) reporting completion of the health check prior to commencing work
- Health checks can be carried out using the self-assessment tool located online in the SD91 Teams / OHS app / Daily Health Check.
- The reporting of the completion of this Health Check to the employer can either be done online (or via app) at home or be done online at the worksite prior to commencing work for the day. The option chosen is at the employees' discretion.
- **No person who is ill may attend school.**

Health Checks - Students

- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school.
- Administrators must clearly communicate with parents and caregivers about their responsibility to assess their children daily before sending them to school.
- Teaching staff must remind students about the importance of daily health checks and staying home if sick.

- Classroom staff must follow sick child protocol in the event of student illness and immediately isolate sick children and arrange for parental pick-up.

Allergies and Asthma

- A staff or student with a history of allergies or asthma can attend school if they do not, in addition to expected allergy or asthma symptoms present any COVID-19 symptoms, or symptoms of any COVID-19 variant, atypical for that allergy.
- Parents should list the known allergy of their Learner on the standard form provided to them by the school at the beginning of the school year. This will ensure that school staff is aware.

Staff Illness at Work

If a staff member becomes ill at work, they should inform Administration and leave the school without delay and contact 811 or their Health Care provider for further direction if presenting symptoms of COVID-19 or its variants.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should not return to school until they have been assessed by a health-care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved.

*Schools should not provide notification to staff or students' families if a staff member or student becomes ill at home or at school. This decision and direction will be made and provided by Northern Health.

Illness of Close Family Members

Northern Health will instruct anyone within a household or on a close-contact list whether or not they are required to self-isolate.

Visitors Access & Community Use

Schools can leave front doors unlocked for visitor access but should encourage visitors to make appointments prior to arriving at school. This availability may change based on guidance from the Ministry and/or Health Authorities.

- All visitors must wear a mask in any SD91 building.

- All visitors must perform a Daily Health Check prior to entering the building and only report to the building if they can answer “no” to all the questions.
- They must immediately report to Administration to sign-in when entering a building.
- The purpose of signing in is for Northern Health contact-tracing purposes. These sign-in sheets must be maintained by Administration for 30 days. After 30 days they can be shredded.
- If a visitor refuses to wear a mask they should be assisted in booking a virtual appointment for their meeting. **They may not remain in the building.**

Hierarchy – Environmental Measures

Cleaning and Custodial Services

Frequency Guidelines

General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises at least once in a 24-hour period. This will be done during after regular school hours.

In addition to the cleaning and disinfecting of the premises, high-touch cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces (items used by multiple students and staff, including doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, water fountains, faucet handles, toilet handles, tables and desks will be done after school hours.

Cleaning Protocols

- Surfaces can be disinfected using disinfectant spray bottles filled with SD91 approved disinfectant and paper or cloth towels as provided by the school custodian. Staff should not access custodial rooms for products.
- All cleaning and disinfectant supplies must be safely stored away from children.
- Custodial staff will ensure ongoing top-up of hand washing supplies and hand sanitizer.
- The Custodial Coordinator will monitor Covid-19 related supply levels. Custodians will continue to order regular monthly supplies.
- Each school will be cleaned based on the Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings.
- In the event a “Designated Health Room” has been used - custodial staff will, at the beginning of their shift, clean these rooms. Administration is responsible for ensuring the room is closed after use and a sign posted on the door to indicate cleaning is required. Should the room be required for multiple use throughout the day, Administrators are responsible for disinfecting (with a designated spray bottle/cloth) the areas of the room which came in contact with any bodily fluids of the ill person. This process should be done between use of the room.
- Facilities and operations staff must keep their vehicles clean and sanitized daily. Cleaning supplies will be provided.

Note: Do not throw out sanitizer pumps or squeeze bottles, they can be refilled. Your custodian will refill them and replace the cleaning cloths each night.

Accidental Exposure to Cleaning or Disinfectant Products

If you or someone you know has been exposed to an undiluted detergent disinfectant or cleaning product, seek first aid, review the SDS and call the

Poison Control Centre: Toll-free: 1-800-567-8911 if necessary.

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)

- All users of controlled products must be WHMIS trained.
- All cleaning products (undiluted) must be safely stored out of reach of children.
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all cleaning products are available through MSDS Online and copies can be found in the Custodial rooms.
- Soap and water are the preferred method of sanitizing hands. Hand sanitizers should only be used with small children under the direct control of supervising staff.
- All chemicals must be properly labelled in accordance with WHMIS requirements.

Disinfectants

The School District is in a continuous improvement cycle for the disinfectants used in schools. This means that product safety is constantly being evaluated and some products may be added or discontinued based on product safety evaluations, workplace experience and availability. Every disinfectant used by the District is approved by Health Canada for effectiveness against COVID-19 and its variants.

Ventilation & Air Exchange

Good ventilation reduces the potential for COVID-19 transmission:

- CO2 levels must be maintained at the WorkSafeBC Guideline Levels of 1000 PPM or lower. Currently our buildings are set at 600 PPM which is 40% better than the minimum acceptable requirement. Ventilation systems, classrooms or combined rooms are equipped with CO2 monitors.
- Where possible, natural ventilation should be maximized by opening the doors and windows to periodically assist in changing the air. This direction only applies when outdoor temperatures are 10 degrees Celsius or higher and there are not strong winds that would create cross-ventilation indoors. If it is windy outside, keep the windows closed and allow the HVAC system to work.
- HVAC systems have been optimized in compliance with industry standards for COVID-19 to provide the very best air quality possible in the space being served. The air filters are on a scheduled maintenance-program to ensure regular replacement and cleaning.
- Air Purifiers with HEPA filters have been added in some buildings where necessary.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION PLAN

JANUARY 04, 2022

Physical Barriers

Plexiglass barriers installed at schools will remain in place at this time. Portable plexiglass barriers may be used for teaching when facial expression is deemed necessary.

Physical Distancing

Public health no longer recommends physical distancing of 2M as a communicable disease measure for the K-12 setting, there are a number of best-practices that can be used:

- Always use available space to spread people out as much as possible, both in learning environments and for gatherings and events.
- Implement strategies that prevent crowding at pick-up/drop-off times.
- Stagger recess, lunch and snack times to provide a greater amount of space for everyone if possible.
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways and around lockers to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.
- Use posters and directional wall-arrows to address traffic flow throughout the building
- On buses, if space is available, students should each have their own seat. Children from the same household may share seats.

Hierarchy – Administrative Measures

Learning Groups & Cohorts – are no longer required.

Gatherings & Events

School gatherings and events (including inter-school events) can occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendation and Orders. These gatherings should be organized using a Trauma Informed Lens - giving consideration to the following:

- Respecting student and staff comfort levels regarding personal space.
- Using space available to spread people out as much as possible, respecting room occupancy limits of 50% capacity, and ensuring enough space is available to prevent involuntary physical contact between attendees.

Staff Only Areas

Room capacity numbers are no longer required to be posted outside rooms. However, there will only be sufficient chairs in accordance with (50% of room capacity). It is expected that staff will enter, and then immediately remove themselves if all seats are filled as is then deemed to be at full capacity.

Masks are required to be worn in these areas however masks may be removed to eat/drink once seated.

When participating in a meeting – masks should be worn.

SD91- Identification

All staff who do not regularly work in the school, including maintenance staff, must wear and prominently display School District ID. These have been provided and will be re-issued if needed.

Main Door Access

- Where possible, all but the main entry doors should be used as much as possible during normal operating hours however exterior hallway entry doors will be unlocked. Please use signage to reinforce use of main door.

Maintenance Staff Sign-in/Sign-out Procedures

- Maintenance staff must, in all cases, sign-in at the front office when carrying out work in schools.
- Maintenance staff must not, except in emergency situations, commence work activities in-side the school without front office staff first being advised.

After Hours

All persons who access the school outside of regular school hours must have permission, in advance, from their supervisor. In addition, all persons who access the school after hours must sign in and out. Staff accessing a building on a weekend must contact Replay. Staff who access a building outside of school hours must clean & disinfect anything they touch.

Contractors

1. All contractors entering School District buildings must:
2. Have prior authorization to enter from either the Facilities Dept or the school principal.
3. Must conduct daily health checks as per District requirements and follow all protocols.
4. Advise the school in advance of arrival and indicate and ETA
5. Wear a reusable cloth mask or disposable mask while on school property.
6. Thoroughly wash/sanitize hands upon arrival at the school.
7. Sign in at front office, identify where they will be working in the building.
8. Wear contractor ID
9. Expect that staff will challenge unrecognized personnel in the building.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION PLAN

JANUARY 04, 2022

10. Sanitize all areas touched such as switches, doorknobs, etc. with antiseptic wipes or hand sanitizer and paper towels prior to leaving.
11. Use good respiratory etiquette such as coughing or sneezing into their sleeve or a tissue.

Transportation

Bus - Hand Sanitizing

Bus drivers must wash their hands often, including before and after completing trips. The driver must keep hand sanitizer readily available.

Students must wash or sanitize their hands:

- before they leave home to take the bus
- when they arrive at school
- when they are leaving school prior to taking the bus
- when they get home

Drivers must carry Hand Sanitizer and use it:

- after assisting a child to their seat
- touching wheelchairs or other assistive devices
- having other direct contact

Bus - Cleaning and Disinfecting

It is the Driver's responsibility to ensure that the school bus interior surfaces are disinfected using a School District 91 approved disinfectant prior to use. Cleaning and disinfecting can be carried out by the driver using the designated work procedure.

Bus - Masks

Bus Drivers must wear a non-medical mask at all times while on the bus.

Staff, adult volunteers, and all students are required to wear a non-medical mask at all times while on the bus.

Exemptions:

- Bus Drivers do not have to wear a mask while driving.
- If a person cannot put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily to identify the person wearing it

Should a face mask not be tolerated by a student, parents are asked to contact Administration to discuss specific accommodations.

Priority of Seating:



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION PLAN

JANUARY 04, 2022

First: Students in the same family will be seated together
Second: Students wearing masks will be seated together

Bus drivers must wear a non-medical mask unless driving. Face Shields cannot be worn without a non-medical mask and cannot be worn while driving. Masks and face shields will be provided by the district. Personal face masks (meeting required guidelines and standards) may be worn by the employee. The employee is responsible for keeping their masks clean and in a sanitary condition.

Bus - Ventilation

Buses will operate with mechanical and natural ventilation as much as possible.

As a minimum:

- mechanical ventilation must be switched on and operated in the non-recirculating mode.
- roof hatches will be opened to the maximum extent possible given weather conditions.

Child Illness on the Bus

If a child displays covid-19 like symptoms on the bus the driver will:

- Provide the student with a mask if they are not already wearing one. Help them don it, if needed, then sanitize hands.
- Inform dispatch that there is a sick child on board. Dispatch will advise the designated school administration to arrange for pick up by the parent or guardian.
- Upon arrival at the school unload the sick child first and supervise the student outside of the bus.
- Physically distance the child from self and others.
- Instruct all students, as they exit the bus, to sanitize their hands upon entry to the school.
- Stay with the child until school staff arrive and ensure that the student does not enter the school and remains outdoors and away from others.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the bus upon arrival at the bus garage

Maintenance and Operations Vehicles

Except for buses, carrying passengers is discouraged when operating a school district vehicle. Where multiple passengers are required to occupy a vehicle, all passengers including the driver must wear a non-medical mask for the duration of the trip.

Hierarchy – Personal Protective Equipment



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION PLAN

JANUARY 04, 2022

Masks

Staff and students who are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness, even if mild, should stay home. The use of a mask is not an acceptable alternative.

Under the updated health and safety guidelines, masks will be required for staff, volunteers, visitors, and all students.

Non-medical masks must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

Maintenance personnel or other SD91 staff carrying out work activities in occupied areas of the school will wear a SD91 reusable mask or the appropriate required mask (PPE) for the task.

Contractors must wear a mask while on school property if working in occupied areas.

Cleaning and Disposing of Masks

There are 4 types of masks which can be worn in the District:

- Non-medical Re-usable fabric masks (provided by the District in Sept 2020)
- Disposable single use masks (available from the District if re-usable mask is forgotten or unavailable)
- Personally purchased re-usable fabric masks (provided by individual)
- PPE Required masks appropriate for the job - used by Facilities and Custodial employees

To dispose of single-use masks after use:

- Wash your hands with soap and water before taking off your mask.
- Dispose of used masks in a wastebasket lined with a plastic bag.
- After taking off your mask, wash your hands again with soap and water before touching your face or doing anything else.

Cloth masks should be cleaned and changed often:

- To clean a cloth mask, wash it using the directions provided in the bag with the masks.
- Do not shake dirty masks to minimize spreading germs and particles through the air. If dirty cloth masks have been in contact with someone who is sick, they can still be washed with other people's laundry.
- Any damage, fabric break down, or change in fit will reduce the protection of cloth masks.
- If masks are to be removed for a short period of time and then re-worn, to eat lunch for example, they should be placed in a clean (or freshly sanitized) zip lock bag rather than being placed on a common surface like a lunch table. Lanyards for masks are acceptable.

Currently the PHO Order relating to mask exemptions for adults is evolving.

Please contact HR for direction should a staff member require an exemption.

Gloves

Gloves may be used by staff providing first aid, staff providing close personal care (when required in care plan for that Learner) or custodians working with cleaning agents. Other than that, they are not recommended; good hand washing and sanitation practices are.

First Aid

Although the risk of virus transmission from an asymptomatic (no symptoms) person is low. First Aid Attendants may use gloves at their discretion when rendering first aid as Physical Distancing may not be maintained.

Masks must be worn.

Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees

In accordance with the general requirements of Section 36 of the Workers Compensation Act the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) members at each location have a responsibility to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the content and requirements of this document and consult with workers and inspect the workplace to:

- Identify situations that may be unhealthy or unsafe for workers and advise on effective systems for responding to those situations.
- Consider and expeditiously report complaints or concerns relating to the health and safety of workers.
- Consult with workers and the employer on issues related to occupational health and safety and the occupational environment.
- Make recommendations to the employer and the workers for the improvement of the occupational health and safety and occupational environment of workers.
- Make recommendations to the employer on educational programs promoting the health and safety of workers and compliance with the OHS provisions and the regulations and to monitor their effectiveness.
- To ensure that incident investigations and regular inspections are carried out as required by the OHS provisions and the regulations.
- To participate in inspections, investigations, and inquiries as provided in the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) provisions and the regulations.

Safety Committee Members have an important role to play in inspecting the workplace, evaluating the effectiveness of the Communicable Disease Prevention Plan and making recommendations for improvement. Administrators will accommodate reasonable requests for release time to carry out these functions.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION PLAN

JANUARY 04, 2022

School Based Protocols

Dedicated Health Room

- Principals will select a room with a door that can be used when a sick child (see Section 13) is awaiting parental/caregiver pick-up.
- The selected area will, as a minimum, be supplied with a hand sanitization dispenser, waste receptacle and tissues.
- The room must have a "Dedicated Health Room" sign (available from the District- HR office) restricting regular access that can be posted while the room is in use.
- The selected room location must not impede the timely provision of school first aid services.
- If use of the First Aid room is the only option available, ensure that the First Aid supply kit is relocated to another area to accommodate any First Aid requirements while this room is occupied.

Hand Washing Facilities

Schools that do not have a sink near the main entry of the school are provided with hand sanitizing station(s) inside the entrance.

Hand sanitizing stations are located throughout the buildings in hallways. If a classroom does not have a sink for hand washing, students and staff will access the nearest hand sanitizing station.

Sign-in Station

Signage must be conspicuously located in proximity to the main entry doors and at external entry doors. This signage will direct visitors to the sign-in location and remind everyone of access restrictions, physical distancing, mask and handwashing requirements. Office staff who deal with the public may need to be relocated to minimize visitor traffic through an office. The Sign-in station will have:

1. Sign in sheets
2. Hand sanitizer / Tissues
3. Plexiglass barriers – will be maintained for the present time
4. Handwashing and physical distancing posters (available from the District HR Office)
5. Visitors must wear a mask while in the school

Desk/Workstation Placement

Create and maintain seating plans that best support learning however best-practice is to utilize all available classroom space as much as possible.

All workspaces and desks should be separated from each other as much in accordance with the above and placed to allow for adequate distancing during entry/exit of the classroom.

De-cluttering

- Classroom staff will de-clutter classrooms to facilitate effective and efficient cleaning. Only essential, required teaching items will be stored in the classroom.
- The use of the classroom for long-term storage must be minimized as much as possible.
- Unnecessary, unused items must be disposed of, relocated or stored in a storage area.
- Desk-tops and counter surfaces must be kept as clear as possible to allow for nightly custodial cleaning.
- Teaching staff will direct students to take home any unnecessary personal items and keep their desks clean and uncluttered.
- Items that are not readily disinfected like cloth or fabric furnishings or toys may be returned to the classroom if required however they will not be cleaned by custodians.

Toys and Manipulatives

It is recommended that classroom staff store toys and manipulatives in clearly labeled plastic bins with a lid. It is also recommended, if possible, to have a 3-day rotation system in place. Tote #1 will be used the first day - then sealed. Tote #2 the 2nd day - then sealed etc. The 3-day rotation allows germs to die between use. Please ensure totes are filled no greater than 3/4 full. Toys that require washing should be done so as needed by a willing employee. This is not a custodial duty.

Students using toys and manipulatives should wash their hands before and after use. between classes.

Personal Items

Students should bring only limited/essential items into the school and should not share materials.

Food

- Schools can include food preparation as part of learning programs for students.
- Schools can continue to accept food donations to support learning and the delivery of meal programs, breakfast clubs and other food initiatives.
- Schools should continue to emphasize that food and beverages should not be shared (eg: bites out of the same sandwich).
- Schools can allow classroom birthday cupcakes and treats

Science and Shop Areas

- Science and shop teachers will implement ongoing disinfection of high touch areas within the classroom and will educate, direct and supervise students to ensure adequate cleaning and disinfection of PPE, equipment, supplies and tools before and after use. This is not a custodial duty.
- Shop teachers must keep shops as dust and clutter free as possible to facilitate cleaning. All Codes, CSA and WorkSafeBC regulations remain in effect.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION PLAN

JANUARY 04, 2022

- Teachers will be supplied with disinfectant wipes and paper towels from custodial staff. Chemicals must be safely stored, handled.

Foods Areas

- Food area teachers will maintain the established cleaning standards within the classroom.
- Teachers will request/obtain additional approved disinfectant, and paper towels from custodial staff if required (please remember that supplies are replenished daily so there should not be a need to contact custodians). Do not remove cleaning supplies from the Custodial room.
- Food area staff will continue to use FoodSafe hygiene practices and avoid bare hand contact when handling food. For example, staff will use utensils, deli napkins, or dispensing equipment to handle food.
- Staff will frequently wash hands with soap and water to reduce risk of transmission when handling foods.
- All fruits and vegetables will be washed before cooking/consuming.
- All incoming food items will be placed in a designated area upon arrival.

Art Rooms

- Art teachers will maintain their existing cleaning standards for their classroom.
- Teachers will educate, direct and supervise students to ensure cleaning (soap/water and existing practices) of equipment, supplies and tools before and after use.
- Disinfectant wipes and paper towels will be supplied and replenished by custodial staff.
- Good handwashing before and after is the primary line of defense.
- Using basic soap and water can be highly effective in reducing the number of harmful bacteria and viruses simply by carrying away the dirt and oil that they stick to.
- Students must wash their hands before and after using any shared art materials.

Music / Singing Classes

- Students must always sing/play forward facing not in a circle or facing each other.
- Masks must be worn while singing.
- The instructor must maintain Physical Distancing when facing singers or instrument players and wear a non-medical mask. If physically distanced, instructors may wear a face shield and remove their mask to demonstrate mouth movement.
- Items, like music stands or instruments must not be shared between students unless disinfected between uses.
- Water keys (spit valves) must not be released directly on to the floor.
- Masks must be worn unless playing a "wind" instrument
- Visit "Guidance for Music classes in BC During COVID-19 for more info.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KG2rE1rU-NENxbQsuYN20xnM9TBIIn3Z/view>

Instrument Cleaning Guidelines:

- The same sanitization protocols used pre-covid for instrument mouth pieces are adequate and should continue.
- Mouthpieces on musical instruments should be cleaned and disinfected according to standard practices recommended for the instrument.
- When possible, each student/child should have their own mouthpiece.

Books and Print Materials

The BCCDC advises that there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, or by paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution or sharing of books or paper based educational resources. The risk of COVID-19 transmission by books and print materials is low. As always, good handwashing practices are essential.

Gym Equipment

Staff and students must sanitizer their hands before and after using any gym equipment.

It is recommended, if possible, to have a 3-day rotation system in place for the use of equipment. The 3-day rotation allows germs to die between use eliminating the need for disinfection.

Outdoor Play Activities

Teachers should endeavor to maximize outdoor play/instruction when possible. Playgrounds are an optimal environment, and staff will direct appropriate hand hygiene practices before, during, after outdoor play.

Film and Dance Programs

K-12 staff are required to wear masks during these programs when they are indoors, and a barrier is not present.

Staff and students are required to wear masks during these programs when they are indoors except during high intensity physical activity.