



# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION PLAN

March 21, 2022



# Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

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## 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.



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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. Updated plans must be posted on the SD91 website and at the school.

## 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-

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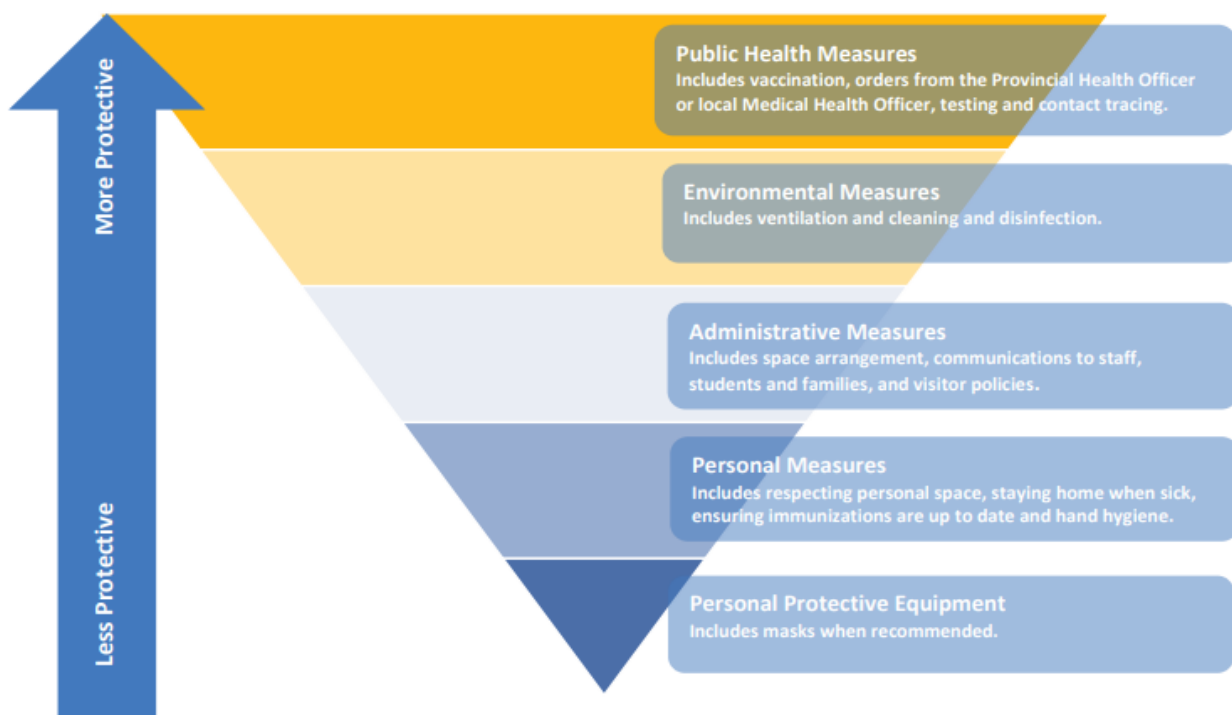
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19. These are more effective in settings such as schools where there is a relatively consistent grouping of people and multiple measures of varying effectiveness can be routinely implemented including:

- 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**

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## Supportive School Environments

Schools can support students to practice personal preventative measures by:

- Having staff model these behaviours.
- Sharing reliable information, including from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, to parents, families and caregivers.
- Promoting safety measures in the school through the use of visual aids such as signage.

## 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 4.

## School Exposure Notifications

Northern Health retains the authority to reinstate this process if needed. As in this past year, Northern Health will notify the District of any required actions should they arise.

## Daily Health Checks - School Staff

A daily health check is a tool to reduce the likelihood of a person with COVID-19 coming to school when they are infectious.

- The SD91 Daily Health Check is a two-part process consisting of:
  - a) performing the actual health check prior to leaving for work (MUST be completed)
  - b) reporting completion of the health check via Teams prior to commencing work (best-practice)
- **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.

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- 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.
- In the event of a student illness during the school day, staff should immediately contact an Administrator. The student will be moved to a designated Health care room, provided with a mask and arrangements for parental or caregiver pick-up will be made.

## 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 an Administrator, don a mask, and make arrangements to leave the school. Depending on the severity of symptoms, contact 811 or their Health Care provider for further direction if required.

## Staying Home, Self-Isolation and Symptoms

Students, staff or other adults must stay home if they are required to self-isolate. Additional information on self-isolation requirements and support is available from the BCCDC. These requirements vary based on vaccination status, recent travel, and any regional management strategies or BCCDC orders currently in effect.

## Visitor 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 perform a Daily Health Check prior to entering the building and only enter the building if they can answer “no” to all the questions.
- Signage must be posted at entry doors advising all visitors of the Daily Health Check requirement prior to entering and requiring them to report to the office.

**Hierarchy – Environmental Measures**





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## 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 primarily 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 uses 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 (located in custodial rooms) and call the **Poison Control Centre:**

**Toll-free:** 1-800-567-8911 if necessary.

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## 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

At this time, there is no evidence that a building's ventilation system, in good operating condition, would contribute to the spread of the virus. Good indoor air ventilation alone cannot protect people from exposure to COVID-19; however, it may reduce risk when used in addition to other preventative measures.

School districts are required to ensure that heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are designed, operated, and maintained as per standards and specifications for ongoing comfort for workers ([part 4 of the OHS Regulations](#))

Facilities regularly maintains HVAC systems for proper operation and ensures that:

- Schools with recycled/recirculated air systems have upgraded their current filters to MERV 13 or higher if possible.
- Schools with fresh air intake systems have increased their average air exchanges as detailed on the ASHRAE website and the Rocky Point Engineering website.

School site-based safety plans should include provisions for when a school/worksite's ventilation system is temporarily compromised (e.g., partial power outage, ventilation break-down).

In order to enhance school ventilation, schools should consider:

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- Moving activities outdoors when possible and consider moving classrooms outside when space and weather permit.
- Where possible, opening windows if weather permits and HVAC system function will not be negatively impacted.

When using air conditioners and fans in ventilated spaces, air should be moved from high places to lower places instead of blowing air directly from one person's breathing zone to another's. Avoid horizontal cross breezes.

Use of portable air conditioners and fans in unventilated spaces with door and windows closed should be avoided, except when necessary during high heat events. Communicable disease prevention measures need to be balanced against the risk of excessive heat events in warmer months.

## Physical Barriers

Plexiglass barriers installed at schools will remain in place at this time. They will be reviewed, based on the current Ministry guidelines and recommendations, at the end of the school year. Portable Plexiglass barriers are not required however, current barriers will be available for staff to use if their personal comfort level (using a trauma-informed lens) is helpful to them during transition. Being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to reduce risk.

## 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.

### Hierarchy – Administrative Measures

## Supporting Students with Disabilities/Diverse Abilities and/or Receiving Health Services



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School Districts are expected to implement health and safety measures that promote the inclusion of students with disabilities/diverse abilities.

Most students with disabilities/diverse abilities or medical complexity are not considered at greater risk of experiencing severe illness from COVID-19. For guidelines specific to children with immune suppression (e.g., students who have had a recent organ transplant, who are receiving chemotherapy, those with an illness impacting their immune system), please refer to the K-12 Education Recovery Plan (pg. 5).

[Guidelines for staff and/or those working with students with disabilities/diverse abilities, complex behaviours, medical complexities, or receiving delegated care where physical contact may be required](#)

Those providing health or education services that require being in close proximity to a student should follow their standard risk assessment methods to determine what PPE is needed for general communicable disease prevention in accordance with routine practices. Additional personal protective equipment is not required beyond that used in their regular course of work (e.g. gloves for toileting).

Those provided health services in schools may be receiving different guidance related to PPE from their regulatory college or employer. Health service providers are encouraged to work with their employer to confirm what PPE is recommended for the services they provide in school settings.

Parents and caregivers of children who are considered at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 are encouraged to consult with their health care provider to determine their child's level of risk. Students are not required to wear a mask or face covering when receiving services, though may continue to wear them based on their or their parent/caregiver's personal choice.

[Learning Groups & Cohorts](#) – are no longer required.

## Gatherings & Events

After the end of day April 07, 2022 – all school gatherings can return to 100% capacity.

While the PHO Gatherings & Events Order is in place, schools should not exceed 50 people or 50% operating capacity (whichever is greater).

Organizers should apply a trauma-informed lens to their planning, including consideration of:

- Respecting student and staff comfort levels regarding personal space



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- Using available space to spread people out as much as possible to prevent physical contact
- Gradual transitions to larger gatherings, including starting with virtual or smaller in-person options, shorter sessions etc.

## Staff Only Areas

Room capacity numbers are no longer required to be posted outside rooms. However, the available space should be used to spread people out as much as possible. Stagger break times to reduce congestion and follow the best-practices outlined in the SD91 Communicable Disease Orientation regarding sharing of food.

## 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.

## 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. Sign in at front office, identify where they will be working in the building.
5. Wear contractor ID
6. Use good respiratory etiquette such as coughing or sneezing into their sleeve or a tissue.



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## 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

Drivers, Teachers, adult volunteers, and students in K -12 may choose to wear masks or face coverings when they are on the bus.

Bus drivers should carry a supply of disposable face masks on their bus to provide to passengers if requested.

### 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

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 (see Daily Health Check section for more information). If a child is sick, they must not take the bus or go to school.

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If a child displays covid-19 like symptoms while 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 their 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 people are required to occupy a vehicle, they may choose to wear a mask. SD91 vehicles should have disposable masks on board for this purpose.

## Emergency Evacuation Drills

Schools should continue to practice various emergency procedures, including six school fire evacuation drills required annually by BC Fire Code 2.8 / 3.2, lockdown drills etc. Please refer to your [School Emergency Manual](#). Emergency procedures may require modification to adhere to communicable disease plans (e.g. designating additional muster locations to reduce crowding where required, making efforts to minimize involuntary physical contact between participants etc. The District may also need to consult with their local medical health officer for guidance on current public health Order, which may affect site specific emergency evacuation procedures.

[In the event of an actual emergency, procedure modifications may be suspended to ensure for a timely, efficient and safe response.](#)

**Hierarchy – Personal Protective Equipment**



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## Masks

The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice for staff, students and visitors. A person's choice should be supported and respected.

Schools and District buildings should continue to have disposable non-medical masks available for those who have forgotten theirs but would like to wear one, or who become ill at school.

## 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.

## 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 are recommended when providing First Aid.



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## 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, attainable 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.

### School Based Protocols

## Dedicated Health Room

- Principals will select a room (with a door) that can be used when a sick child 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.



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## Hand Washing Facilities & Hand Hygiene

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water or using an effective hand sanitizer reduces the spread of illness. Handwashing should be encouraged upon school/building entry and before/after breaks and eating, using the washroom and using frequently touched, shared equipment.

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.

## Desk/Workstation Placement

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

All workspaces and desks should be placed to allow for the maximum available distancing during entry/exit of the classroom.

## De-cluttering

- Classroom staff should de-clutter classrooms to facilitate effective and efficient cleaning.
- 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 and between classes.

## Personal Items

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

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## 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.
- Teachers will be supplied with disinfectant wipes and paper towels from custodial staff. Chemicals must be safely stored and handled as per Safety Data Sheets.

## 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 Food Safe 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.

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- 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 should be encouraged to practice proper hand-hygiene before and after music equipment use.

- 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.
- Visit "Guidance for Music classes in BC During COVID-19 for more info.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KG2rE1rU-NENxbQsuYN20xnM9TBINn3Z/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 and use proper respiratory etiquette.

Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g. water bottles) should not be shared unless disinfected between users.

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.

# Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

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## Outdoor Play Activities

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

## Playgrounds

There is no current evidence of COVID-19 transmission in playground environments. The following measures should be taken when using playgrounds:

- Ensure appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play.
- Sand and water can be used for play if children wash their hands before and after. There is no evidence showing that the virus survives on sand, in water or on playdough.

## Film and Dance Programs

Intra- and inter-school programs, activities and events (e.g. plays, concerts) can continue in alignment with the guidance within this document and the following:

- Capacity should follow that outlined within the [School Gatherings and Events](#) section.
- Shared equipment such as set-pieces, props, cameras etc. should be cleaned and disinfected as per [cleaning and disinfecting guidelines](#) in this document and students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment.

## School Libraries / Learning Commons

Laminated to glossy paper-based products (e.g. books, magazines, worksheets etc) and items with plastic covers (e.g. DVD's) are low-risk items. Regular book browsing and circulation processes can occur as normal. There is no need to clean, disinfect or quarantine these items for any period of time.

The BC Teacher Librarians Association has developed [Recommendations for Access to Library Learning Commons Resources to Meet COVID-19 Requirements](#). In the case of any discrepancy in guidance, District are expected to follow the Ministry of Education guidelines outlined in this document.

## School Sports

Intra-and Inter-school programs, activities (e.g. intramurals, sports team practices, games), sports academies and events can continue in alignment with the guidance within this document and the following:

- Capacity should follow that outlined with the [School Gatherings and Events Section](#).
- Sports activities should be held outside whenever possible.



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- See the [Visitor Access/Community Use section](#) for more information on protocols for spectators.

## Trades in Training Programs

Ongoing collaboration and communication with post-secondary institutions for Trades in Training or other pre-trades apprenticeship programs is crucial.

- Ensure that staff and students in the K-12 school and the post-secondary institution are aware of communicable disease prevention measures in place.
- Diligent student self-assessment of health when transitioning between the secondary school and post-secondary institution.

## Work Experience

Students can still engage in work placements in accordance with the following guidance:

Districts must ensure that students are covered with the required, insurance for placements at standard worksites and must follow WorkSafeBC guidelines.

For current and any new placements, standards in the ministry [Work Experience Program Guide](#) must be followed. Please direct any questions regarding student Work Experience to Darren Carpenter at the Board office.

## Fundraisers

Schools can continue to offer fundraisers that can be implemented in line with the guidelines outlined in this document. If the fundraisers involve the sale of food items, they should also align with the [Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools](#).

## Kindergarten Program & Entry

Program information including information about the communicable disease prevention measures that will be in place will be provided to families prior to school starting.

Parents and caregivers must follow the guidelines for visitors.