



Vancouver School District  
2022

# Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

Including  
Additional COVID-19  
Specific Prevention  
Measures

Version 8

March 24, 2022

This document is based on guidance from the Province of BC, the BC Centre for Disease Control, the BC Ministry of Education, and Vancouver Coastal Health.

Go to [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca) for most current version

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## Land and Territorial Acknowledgment

The Vancouver School District honours the territories of the **xʷməθkʷəy̓əm** (Musqueam), **sk̓wx̓wú7mesh** (Squamish) and **sel̓ilwítulh** (Tseil-Waututh) Nations upon which we are located and commits to serving with respect for the health and well-being of all.

## Regulatory Compliance

This Communicable Disease Prevention Plan is an Exposure Control Plan (ECP) that applies to the Vancouver School District, its employees and school communities.

This plan aligns with the intent of the:

- [B.C. Workers Compensation Act](#)
- [B.C. Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#)
- [BC Provincial Health Officer, Public Health Orders](#)
- *Vancouver Coastal Health, Medical Health Officers - providing regional directions*
- [Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools \(Mar 10, 2022\)](#)
- [BC Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings \(Mar 10, 2022\)](#)

## Purpose

Communicable disease control and prevention is a priority across the Vancouver School District ("District"). The District recognizes the unique risks and challenges that communicable diseases present and, has put preventative measures into place to create safe environments to learn and work.

The purpose of this Communicable Disease Prevention Plan ("Plan") is to protect the District employees, students, parents/guardians ("parents"), volunteers, visitors, and contractors by providing appropriate information that can be used to prevent and reduce the risk of contracting and transmitting communicable diseases in District schools and workplaces.

In circumstances of elevated risk, and/or when directed by authorities, the District will employ additional, specific measures to those identified in this document. The District will follow direction and controls as specified by the BCCDC, Vancouver Coastal Health Medical Health Officer(s), and WorkSafeBC, as well as the B.C. Ministry of Education, and B.C. Ministry of Health, in their efforts to prevent communicable disease transmission in schools and workplaces.

## PART 1

### Communicable Diseases Prevention Plan in VSB Schools and Workplaces

#### Scope

Communicable diseases included in the scope of this Plan are those typically caused by respiratory viruses and normally spread through direct or indirect human contact in schools and workplaces. This Plan applies to all District employees, students, parents, volunteers, visitors, and contractors. All employees are required to review and follow the control measures and procedures within this Plan.

Note: This Plan supersedes all previous versions of the *VSB Communicable Disease Prevention Plan*.

#### What is a Communicable Disease?

*WorkSafeBC* advises that communicable disease is an illness caused by an infectious agent that can be transmitted by contact with infected individuals or their bodily discharges or fluids or by contact with contaminated surfaces or objects. Examples of communicable diseases that may circulate in a workplace include the common cold and seasonal influenza as well as norovirus-like illnesses, chickenpox, and COVID-19 (including variants).

Communicable diseases are most commonly spread from an infected person through:

- Respiratory droplets/particles/aerosols when a person coughs or sneezes.
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.
- Touching something contaminated with virus and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands.

Refer to the Vancouver Coastal Health "[Sneezes and Diseases: A Resource Book for Caregivers & Parents](#)" or their [website](#) to review fact sheets for individual illnesses and diseases which may impact students.

District staff can refer to the [VSB Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan](#) for further details on blood borne pathogens such as Hepatitis B, C and HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and the [VSB Work Procedures - Influenza Exposure Control Plan](#) for further details on Influenza.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### The District/Employer

- Establish a Communicable Disease Prevention Plan ("the Plan") and support communicable disease prevention at all levels of the organization.
- Ensure the Plan is implemented and effective.
- Provide information, supplies, and resources for communicable disease prevention to enable school administrators, managers, and supervisors to meet their responsibilities.
- Collaborate with public health authorities on communicable disease prevention.
- Centrally track attendance at schools and compare current attendance rates to the previous year(s) to determine if any potential activity signals related to attendance have been met (see below). When reached, the District will connect with VCH to determine if further investigation is warranted.
  - Current public health-identified potential activity signals are:
    1. If a school attendance is 10% below historical normal (e.g. the previous years);
    2. If less than 75% of students in a grade are in attendance; **OR**
      - Note: For smaller schools (such as annexes/student population <100), where large fluctuations in school absenteeism rates can be due to small number of students away, this activity signal is met when an abnormal number of students are away due to illness over 2-3 days.
    3. A functional closure is being considered or implemented due to staff-related attendance challenges.

### School Administrators, Managers, and Supervisors:

- Advise staff and students to not attend work or school when exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms (e.g. fever, chills, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, runny nose, etc) and send home staff or students who are unwell or exhibiting new or worsening flu-like symptoms.
- Ensure employees understand and follow safe work procedures and the communicable disease plan and implement these in their work.
- Educate staff, and have them educate students (using age-appropriate methods), on the contents of the VSB Communicable Disease Prevention Plan
- Reinforce proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and the need to stay home when sick.
- Maintain records of training.
- Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment is available (where necessary) and that employees are trained on the proper use.

- Ensure that employees who work with a potential exposure risk (e.g., personal care, washroom cleaning, first aid, etc.) receive education and training on hazard identification and safe work procedures.

### **Staff/Employees:**

- Remain home if sick or have new or worsening symptoms of illness.
- Understand and follow District Safe Work Procedures.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Attend education and training sessions.
- Report to the school administrator, manager, or supervisor any concerns regarding an infectious disease hazard or exposure.

### **Health & Safety Department**

- Recommend, implement, document, and communicate the appropriate site or task/activity-based control measures to school administrators, managers, and supervisors.
- Ensure all employees are provided with access to this Plan.
- Support managers and supervisors in their responsibilities regarding communicable diseases.
- Recommend appropriate control measures.
- Conduct a periodic review of the Plan's effectiveness.
- Maintain records, as necessary.

### **Visitors**

- Stay home and do not enter a school or District worksite if sick.
- Comply with the direction of school administrators, managers, supervisors, and staff with respect to communicable disease control measures.
- Alert their District host if/when going home sick or unwell.

### **Contractors and Subcontractors**

- Review and follow District safe work procedures and requirements including the content of this Plan.
- Comply with the direction of school administrators, managers, supervisors, and staff with respect to communicable disease control measures.
- Select, provide, care, maintain, and use any assigned or required personal protection equipment (PPE), as trained and instructed.
- Report any symptoms or illness which contracted workers develops to the District Project Manager/Coordinator for the project and contact 8-1-1 as appropriate. Alert their District Project Manager/Coordinator when going home sick or unwell.

### **Risk Identification and Assessment**

Public health advises that the risk of communicable diseases in schools generally parallels that of the community within which the school is located. For example, if colds or influenza are prevalent in the community, then these illnesses will be seen in schools and among staff and students.

In late 2021 through 2022, the Omicron variant of COVID-19 became the predominant virus in our community. Our experience in B.C. during the 2020-21 school year, which aligned with evidence gathered nationally and internationally, saw schools as lower-risk environments for COVID-19 transmission when infection prevention and exposure control measures (also called prevention measures) were in place. This remains true in Spring 2022. Public health advises that this will remain true during this stage of the pandemic and as COVID-19 moves toward endemic status. *WorkSafeBC* guidance for Communicable Disease Prevention Plans requires that employers remain informed of developing communicable disease issues. With regular, ongoing dialogue and partnership with *Vancouver Coastal Health* (VCH) Medical Health Officers and access to BCCDC resources, the District is well advised on common, rare, and emerging communicable diseases.

The risk identification and assessment table in Appendix A is provided as a general reference, developed with input from VCH regarding risk/incidence. This list, risk identification, and assessment is not exhaustive. Rather, it provides an overview of some of the communicable diseases that are observed in K-12 schools and worksites and which concern both staff and students. The existence of vaccines and other preventative controls contribute to lowering the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases in schools.

## Risk Control

The District implements communicable disease prevention controls to mitigate the risks of exposure. Communicable disease controls are categorized into a hierarchy of effectiveness. The controls listed here and implemented in the District or community, effectively control periodic communicable disease events.

1. Elimination: Remove the hazard, the communicable disease, from the workplace. These include:
  - Support public health's delivery of routine childhood immunizations.
  - Support public health's delivery of immunizations/vaccinations for emerging diseases (e.g., SARS, H1N1, COVID-19, etc.) to suppress viral transmission in the community as a whole.
  - Public Health Orders aimed to restrict hazardous environments both work and school.
2. Engineering controls: Contain the hazard or reduce the risk with an engineered control. These include:
  - Provision of barriers (such as plexiglass when supported by public health) as per public health guidance and where deemed necessary.
  - Well maintained ventilation systems as per Ministry of Education guidance. The district continues to run mechanical systems longer, let in more outside air, and maximize occupant control.
  - Upgrading indoor air filtration with MERV 13 air filters (where possible).
  - Placement or installation of hand sanitation stations.
3. Administrative controls: Reduce the risk through organizational processes, procedures, or behaviour changes of employees and/or students. These include:
  - Daily health checks before work or school and staff/students/visitors staying home when sick.
  - Create space when indoors as much as is practical for education/work.
  - Reinforce diligent respiratory etiquette for coughs and sneezes.
  - Reinforcement of diligent hand hygiene and provide supplies and check daily.
  - Clean general facility surfaces, high touch surfaces, and shared equipment.

- Maintain occupancy limits indoors in large gathering spaces (e.g., post in gyms, auditoriums) or in all staff spaces based on commonsense limits which avoid overcrowding.
  - Communicate by providing information on hazards and controls to staff, students, parents, and visitors as well as signage of expected actions or required procedures.
4. Personal protective equipment (PPE) reduces risk of contact with infectious agents. These include:
- The use of three layer masks or disposable non-medical masks is a personal choice of all occupants. See Appendix E: *How to Wear a Face Mask*.
  - Disposable non-medical face masks for certain occupational tasks e.g., first aid, etc. See Procedure for [First Aid Treatment During COVID-19](#)
  - Face shields or goggles (as needed for occupational task e.g., spitting behaviour or an additional COVID-19 specific measure).
  - Gloves - as needed by occupational task (e.g., first aid, personal care, etc.). See Appendix F: *Donning and Doffing of Gloves Procedure*
  - Gowns - as needed by occupational task (e.g., personal care)

## Responding to Elevated Risk

From time to time, public health may advise of elevated risk of a specific communicable disease transmission in the community, a particular workplace(s) or context(s). Where public health has advised of an elevated risk of communicable disease transmission relevant to an employer's workplace, region, or industry, employers must take steps to assess the risk in the workplace and to follow the necessary measures to the extent practicable as provided by public health.

In addition, school administrators and managers will track attendance daily and compare current attendance rates to public health set activity signals to determine if any potential activity signals have been met (see *Responsibilities* above). When attendance meets these set criteria, this will be reported to the VSB Health and Safety to follow-up with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and the Director of Instruction to determine if any school-based or public health action is required.

School administrators, managers, and supervisors are encouraged to contact their Director of Instructions and Health and Safety to get assistance should a parent or student report having a serious communicable disease (e.g., measles, mumps, TB, meningitis, etc.).

## Communicable Disease Prevention Controls

The District has put in place a number of risk-control measures for the prevention of various communicable diseases covered by this Plan. The following describes these measures. It is important to remember that these are long-term and ongoing prevention procedures that are to be conducted daily and apply in all schools/sites in the District.

Ongoing and Daily Communicable Disease Prevention Measures	
Stay Home if Sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o All staff, students, and approved visitors must stay home from school or work if they are sick or have new or worsening symptoms of any communicable disease (e.g. cold/flu like symptoms, extreme fatigue, sore throat, rash, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, loss of sense of taste or smell, etc.) or when they are not well enough to participate fully in their school day or work day. Similarly, they must go home without delay should they develop symptoms while at school/work.</li> </ul>

Stay Home if Sick (con't)

**Specific to COVID-19:**

For the most current information on what to do if symptomatic, have COVID-19, or are a close contact of a person who has COVID-19, please refer to the [BCCDC - If you have COVID](#)

**Symptoms of COVID-19**

- o Fever or chills
- o Cough
- o Loss of sense of smell or taste
- o Difficulty breathing
- o Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- o Sore throat
- o Loss of appetite
- o Sneezing
- o Diarrhea
- o Headache
- o Body aches
- o Nausea or vomiting
- o Runny nose

**When Ill with Symptoms**

\*See Appendix B for a flow chart capturing the following information and more.

Mild Symptoms

Mild symptoms are symptoms that can be managed at home and do not require hospitalization or extended medical treatment. Instead they can:

1. Stay home until you feel well enough to return to your regular activities.
2. It is recommended you avoid non-essential visits to higher risk settings such as long-term care facilities until your symptoms improve.

For those who Test Positive for COVID-19

• **If you are fully vaccinated OR less than 18 years of age**

You can end isolation and return to school/work when all three of these conditions are met:

1. At least **5 days** have passed since your symptoms started, or from test date if you did not have symptoms.
2. Fever has resolved without using a fever-reducing medication (e.g. acetaminophen/ibuprofen).
3. Symptoms have improved.

• **If you are 18 years of age or older AND not fully vaccinated**

You can end isolation and return to school/work when all three of these conditions are met:

1. At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms started, or from test date if you did not have symptoms.
2. Fever has resolved without using a fever-reducing medication (e.g. acetaminophen/ibuprofen).
3. Symptoms have improved.

**Regardless of vaccination status if all the conditions above are not met, the isolation must be extended and individuals should contact 8-1-1 or their health care provider, or go to an Urgent and Primary Care Centre to be assessed.**

**Close Contacts:**

Close contacts of COVID-19 cases are those who live in the same household or romantic partner-like interactions with (e.g. those they kiss). Close contacts are not required to self-isolate.

Close/Household contacts should continue to self-monitor for symptoms and stay home if they get sick. Recall all school students and staff members should regularly self-monitor for symptoms as usual. Those who develop symptoms and become sick are to stay home.



Daily Health Checks	<p>Ensure staff and other adults (e.g. parents, caregivers, visitors) entering the school/worksites are aware of their responsibility to complete a daily health check prior to entering the school/worksites (e.g. emails/letters to parents and staff, orientation video, signage on doors) and to stay home if they are sick.</p> <p>Daily Health Check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Staff and other adults are to complete a daily health check prior to entering the school.</li> <li>o Parents and caregivers are responsible for assessing their children daily for illness before sending them to school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parents/caregivers and students can utilize the Daily Health Check &amp; What to Do When Sick resource for daily assessment of symptoms. See Appendix B for sample health check.</li> </ul> </li> <li>o If a student, staff or other adult is sick, they must not enter the school. See Appendix B.</li> <li>o Signage reminders are posted in schools/workplaces, including at sign-in. Also, see Appendix B for a simplified guide to what to do if symptomatic or you have tested positive for COVID-19.</li> <li>o All school-based staff must report to the school office any students who develop new or worsening symptoms of a communicable disease during the school day and ensure the student is transferred to the health room and supervised/cared for while they await pick-up by their parent(s). See Appendix C, <i>Managing Staff and Students who Develop Symptoms of COVID-19 or other Communicable Diseases while at school/work.</i></li> </ul>																										
Sign-In/Out of Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Only visitors on school/district business are permitted at schools and sites.</li> <li>o All visitors must sign-in at the School Office upon arrival at the site.</li> <li>o Drop in visitors are welcome as of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, however, appointments are requested and appreciated.</li> <li>o Schools <b>do not</b> need to keep contact information (e.g. telephone numbers) of visitors for communicable disease prevention purposes.</li> </ul>																										
Hand Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water or using hand sanitizer is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness (antibacterial soap is not needed). If hands are soiled, hand washing is superior to hand sanitizing. Hand washing with soap under running water for 20 seconds is reinforced with staff and by staff with students.</li> <li>o Hand washing stations and/or hand sanitizer have been supplied to classrooms, offices, break areas, and certain common areas as determined by the school administrator with recommendations from the Site H&amp;S Committee.</li> <li>o Staff should assist younger students with hand hygiene as needed.</li> <li>o Proper and frequent hand hygiene is essential, is encouraged and reinforced (e.g., staff reminders, posters) and must be completed at several times throughout the school or worksite.</li> <li>o The following table outlines when staff and students are to practice hand hygiene.</li> </ul> <table border="1" data-bbox="313 1283 1563 1881"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="313 1283 894 1318">When Student Should Perform Hand Hygiene</th> <th data-bbox="894 1283 1563 1318">When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 1318 894 1354">o When they arrive at school.</td> <td data-bbox="894 1318 1563 1354">o When they arrive at school/work.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 1354 894 1415">o Before and after eating or drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk).</td> <td data-bbox="894 1354 1563 1415">o Before and after eating or drinking (excluding drinks kept at the staff member's desk/workstation).</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 1415 894 1476">o Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).</td> <td data-bbox="894 1415 1563 1476">o Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 1476 894 1577">o Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes with shared equipment.</td> <td data-bbox="894 1476 1563 1577">o Before and after handling food or assisting students with eating.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 1577 894 1612">o After using the toilet.</td> <td data-bbox="894 1577 1563 1612">o After using the toilet.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 1612 894 1648">o After sneezing or coughing into hands.</td> <td data-bbox="894 1612 1563 1648">o Before and after giving medication to a student</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 1648 894 1684">o Whenever hands are visibly dirty.</td> <td data-bbox="894 1648 1563 1684">o After sneezing or coughing into hands.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 1684 894 1745"></td> <td data-bbox="894 1684 1563 1745">o After contact with body fluids (e.g., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood).</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 1745 894 1780"></td> <td data-bbox="894 1745 1563 1780">o After removing gloves.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 1780 894 1816"></td> <td data-bbox="894 1780 1563 1816">o After handling garbage.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 1816 894 1852"></td> <td data-bbox="894 1816 1563 1852">o After cleaning tasks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 1852 894 1887"></td> <td data-bbox="894 1852 1563 1887">o Whenever hands are visibly dirty.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o See Appendix D for instruction on proper Hand Hygiene.</li> </ul>	When Student Should Perform Hand Hygiene	When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene	o When they arrive at school.	o When they arrive at school/work.	o Before and after eating or drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk).	o Before and after eating or drinking (excluding drinks kept at the staff member's desk/workstation).	o Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).	o Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).	o Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes with shared equipment.	o Before and after handling food or assisting students with eating.	o After using the toilet.	o After using the toilet.	o After sneezing or coughing into hands.	o Before and after giving medication to a student	o Whenever hands are visibly dirty.	o After sneezing or coughing into hands.		o After contact with body fluids (e.g., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood).		o After removing gloves.		o After handling garbage.		o After cleaning tasks.		o Whenever hands are visibly dirty.
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Respiratory Etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o All staff, students and other people within a school or workplace are expected to practice diligent and proper respiratory etiquette. This includes covering coughs and sneezes with their elbow or a single use tissue, appropriate disposal of any used tissues or disposable masks into garbage bins, and practicing proper hand hygiene afterwards.</li> </ul>
General Cleaning of the School or Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Schools will be cleaned and disinfected as per BCCDC guidance for public schools.</li> <li>o VSB Operations staff will conduct general cleaning of the premise 1x/day (e.g., school or site flooring, garbage removal, cleaning visibly dirty surfaces, etc.).</li> <li>o School staff are to contact the school office for assistance from the Building Engineer in cleaning up body fluid spills (e.g., blood, stool, urine, vomit).</li> <li>o Cleaning and disinfecting supplies are provided to other staff (via the Building Engineer) in order to spot clean as they deem necessary. Contact the Building Engineer to refresh supplies.</li> </ul>
Cleaning and Disinfecting  -Frequently Touched Surfaces/Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day.</li> <li>o VSB Operations staff will clean and disinfect the following frequently touched surfaces:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Items used by larger numbers of students and staff, including doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, water fountains, faucet handles, toilet handles.</li> <li>o Service counters (e.g., office reception counters, library circulation desk)</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Desks used by students will be cleaned 1x/week (Effective: April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022).</li> <li>o Staff who use or introduce shared equipment or, in secondary schools or adult education, the students who use the equipment, will clean and disinfect:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Computer keyboards and tablets, PE/sports equipment, etc clean 1x/day</li> <li>o Appliances which are shared such as microwaves, refrigerators, coffee pots/machines, etc.</li> <li>o Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g., water bottles, instrument mouth pieces, dishes, certain toys, and manipulatives) or that have been in contact with body fluids should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between use by others.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>NOTE:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequently touched items like toys or manipulatives that may not be able to be cleaned often (e.g. fabrics) or at all (e.g. sand, foam, playdough, water tables, etc.) can be used, when hand hygiene is practiced before and after use.</li> <li>• Carpets and rugs (e.g. in Kindergarten and <i>StrongStart</i> classes) can be used.</li> <li>• There is little to no evidence that viable COVID-19 viruses are transmitted via textbooks, paper, or other paper-based products. <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html</a>.</li> <li>• Laminated or glossy paper (e.g. DVDs) can be contaminated if handled by a person who is sick; however, the risk is low. After use, there is no need for these items to be cleaned and disinfected or left unused for any period of time, or for hand hygiene to be practiced before or after use.</li> <li>• Personal items are to be kept to a minimum - they will not be cleaned by the custodial staff.</li> </ul> <p><u>Cleanings and Disinfecting Blood and Body Fluids</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Custodial staff follow these procedures, when cleaning and disinfecting bodily fluids (e.g., vomit, stool, urine):           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Staff will wear disposable gloves when cleaning blood and body fluids.</li> <li>o Wash hands before/after putting on/taking off gloves.</li> <li>o Use paper towel to clean up solid and liquid matter.</li> <li>o Disinfect the item or surface once the surface it has been cleaned. Custodial staff to refer to the <i>VSB Operations Handbook</i> for specific safe work procedure.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Laundry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Staff are to follow these procedures when doing laundry (e.g., Home Economics, Physical and Health Education, Life Skills Programs, etc.):           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Laundry should be placed in a laundry basket with a plastic liner. Do not shake dirty items.</li> <li>o Wearing gloves is optional. If choosing to wear gloves, ensure hand hygiene is performed before and after use. No other PPE is required.</li> <li>o Wash with regular laundry soap and hot water (60-90°C).</li> <li>o Proper hand hygiene is required after.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Ventilation and Air Conditioning	<p>Current K-12 guidance requires Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Systems (“HVAC systems”) to be maintained. Such systems in schools when operating properly are not known to contribute to the spread of communicable diseases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o District buildings follow guidelines from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). The District regularly checks ASHRAE for operational updates and will make adjustments, as needed.</li><li>o Where building systems allow, the District has followed the <a href="#">ASHRAE Position Document on Infectious Aerosols</a> (April 2020) in supporting control of communicable disease and:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Increased run-times for ventilated spaces – starting two hours prior to occupancy and run two hours past end of occupancy (when practical).</li><li>o Maximized the amount of outdoor air supplied within the capacity of the heating systems.</li><li>o Filtered the air with MERV-13 filters wherever the ventilation equipment allows it.</li><li>o Provided maximum possible occupant control over rooms by ensuring windows and any venting louvres (if applicable) are functional and operating.</li></ul></li><li>o Staff are encouraged to move activities outdoors when possible (e.g., lunch, classes, physical activity, etc) and consider moving classrooms outside when space and weather permit</li><li>o When using fans in ventilated spaces, air should be moved from high places to lower places and do not blow air directly from one person’s breathing zone towards another.</li><li>o Avoid cross breezes.</li></ul>
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## Part 2

### COVID-19 Specific Prevention Measures and School Activity Specific Prevention Measures

Part 1 of this document described ongoing communicable disease measures within the District. This section (Part 2) describes prevention measures in place to specifically address COVID-19, including the Omicron variant, in schools. Both preventative measures and modifications to typical school activities to help prevent COVID-19 transmission

### Supportive, Trauma-Informed Schools/Workplaces and Actions

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in increased uncertainty and stress for many people. Individuals under ongoing stress often have trouble thinking ahead, regulating their emotions, and making decisions. Stressful times are associated with a diminished sense of safety and a loss of power and control. A trauma informed approach to interacting with one another can help to reduce or prevent a trauma response.

All staff, volunteers, visitors, and parents are asked to be respectful of others who may have different levels of comfort. In planning school/work activities and events, staff are asked to consider and respect the personal space of others and elevated perceptions of risk being experienced by others.

Staff and students choosing to practice additional personal prevention measures (e.g., wearing a non-medical mask, wearing a face shield in addition to a non-medical mask, etc.) should be treated with respect.

Schools and staff are encouraged to support students in following this Plan's guidelines and do so by using positive and inclusive approaches. Schools should avoid punitive measures or enforcement activities that exclude students from fully participating in school or that could result in stigma.

Some examples of strategies to support others include:

- Being kind, respectful, and compassionate
- Practicing patience with yourself and others
- Organize activities to initially be smaller in size and occur with generous spacing
- Creating routines or schedules
- Empower others to provide choices
- Create quiet spaces for those who need them
- Listen authentically to others
- Encourage and make time to talk and connect
- Going outside to play, learn and enjoy nature
- Acknowledge others and greet students by name, if you are able
- Keep conversations about pandemic news to a minimum

**School administrators and managers are encouraged to regularly issue reminders on health and safety prevention topics as well as on topics that support mental health and wellbeing of both students and staff.**

The following describes COVID-19 specific prevention measures and procedures for schools and sites.

COVID-19 Specific Prevention Measures	
Access to Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Appointments for school business are recommended and appreciated.</li> <li>o Schools and district sites are open for drop-in visitors as well as spectators at events (where invitations are provided by the school). Effective April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.</li> <li>o Parents/guardians, visitors on school business, ongoing volunteers, and people providing academic support may visit by appointment when the appointment is made in advance of the visit and approved by the school administrator.</li> <li>o District staff may also access schools. If possible, they will schedule their work in advance through the office or the school administrator. District Grounds and Maintenance staff working outdoors on-site may enter the school to use washrooms or lunchroom facilities as needed.</li> </ul>
Create Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Schools may return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches, though should still consider strategies to create space between people.</li> <li>o For indoor spaces without a defined operating capacity, school administrators should determine the number of individuals that would typically be within the space for any given activity or event and not exceed this capacity.</li> <li>o See <i>Gatherings and Events</i> section for any large in-school gatherings or events involving more than the staff, students, and volunteers of a school. All typical activities in schools, including anytime two or more classes come together, should occur in a space that permits everyone to spread out sufficiently so that involuntary physical contact is avoided.</li> <li>o Strategies will be implemented at the site level to prevent crowding at entrances/exits, pick-up and drop-off times, and anywhere else people may gather/crowd (e.g., common areas, hallways/near lockers (if in use), etc). Strategies to prevent crowding include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Take students outside more often, where and when possible.</li> <li>o Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways and around lockers, to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.</li> <li>o Reinforce “keep to the right” with students for those walking in school hallways, lobbies, etc.</li> <li>o Use signage to address traffic flow throughout the school.</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Regular reminders and reinforcement of these measures will be provided.</li> <li>o Students in classrooms and on school buses may spread out into empty seats (when available).</li> <li>o For staff only spaces (e.g., lunchrooms/break rooms, photocopier rooms, school main offices, etc.) utilize signage to direct traffic flow, avoid crowding, and continue to spread out in the available space to prevent staff members from crowding or being in the personal space of others.</li> <li>o See <i>Gatherings and Events</i> and School Main Office section for more information.</li> </ul>
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	<p><b>Face Masks and Face Shields</b></p> <p>Students, staff and visitors may choose to wear masks, face shields or other personal protective equipment in schools, and those choices must be respected.</p> <p>For those choosing to wear masks, it should consist of 3 layers and fit closely to the face with minimal leaks at the nose, cheeks, or chin. The mask should cover from the bridge of the nose to underneath the chin.</p> <p>Schools will continue to have non-medical masks on hand for those who have forgotten theirs but would like to wear one, or for those who become ill at school.</p> <p><b>Schools and worksites are “mask friendly”. Wearing a mask is a personal choice. It is an expectation of every staff member and all students to support and respect the choices of others at all times including the decisions of others on whether or not they wear a mask.</b></p>

	<p>NOTE: Staff are provided the necessary PPE for working with blood and bodily fluids (e.g., toileting, spitting, biting, first aid). This PPE includes as required for the occupational task; gloves, gowns, face shields, Kevlar sleeves, etc., and a non-medical mask with or without a face shield.</p> <p><b>Plexiglass</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Plexiglass droplet barriers are no longer recommended by public health.</li> <li>o All plexiglass in classrooms and learning environments separating students from students and staff from students are to be removed from use and kept in storage at the school/site. (Effective April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022).</li> </ul> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Note: Existing plexiglass and other barriers at public reception areas will remain in place at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Plexiglass droplet barriers for the purpose of communicable disease prevention are no longer available to be added to a school or workplace</li> <li>o Note: Staff may choose to use face shields, available at schools, to replace plexiglass. Using a face shield is a personal choice.</li> </ul>
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<p>Gatherings and Events</p>	<p><u>School Gatherings and Events</u></p> <p>NOTE: The PHO <i>Gathering and Events Order</i> does <u>not</u> apply to K-12 educational activities. The requirements in this Plan <u>do</u> apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>School students/staff only events</b> - For school gatherings and events that bring together multiple classes or other groupings of students (e.g., school assemblies, multiple classes doing a single activity) <b>from the same school</b> (but members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers are <u>not</u> attending), the capacity limit is that of the space where the gathering or event is planned (e.g., auditorium, gym, multipurpose room, studio, lunchroom/cafeteria, etc). <i>For clarity, no added specific limit is placed on capacity for the purposes of communicable disease prevention.</i></li> <li>o <b>Multiple School/School and Community events</b> - For school extracurricular and social gatherings and events that bring together members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers (e.g., an arts club performance, community fair), or that occur between schools (e.g., a music festival, a sports game or tournament), indoor capacity should not exceed 50 people or 50% of operating capacity (whichever is greater). For indoor spaces without a defined operating capacity, schools should determine a capacity limit that is at most half the number of individuals that would be within the space for that activity or event if prevention measures were not in place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <u>Note:</u> A change to increase the above to 100% of the operating capacity of the space is expected on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Events with visitors (e.g., parent/caregiver spectators) can return to 100% operating capacity when the PHO Gatherings and Events Order is lifted (Expected end of day April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022).</li> <li>o Spectators (e.g., parents, caregivers, peers), may be present for gatherings and events (e.g., attend performance club theatre productions, inter-school sports games and tournaments, etc.) capacity should not exceed 50% the capacity of the designated indoor spectator area or 50 people (whichever is greater).</li> <li>o Schools should not implement proof of vaccination requirements for school-led gatherings and events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Note: The Proof of vaccination Order is expected to be lifted in April, 2022.</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Organizers should continue to apply a trauma-informed lens to their planning, including consideration of gradual transitions to larger gatherings (e.g., school-wide assemblies), including starting with small gatherings and increasing the size of gatherings and events to match the provincial requirements (see above).</li> <li>o Use the space available and spread people out within it.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ School administrators and staff are to plan for and ensure that enough space is available to prevent over-crowding.</li> <li>○ Masks are recommended, however, are a personal choice for staff, students, and visitors/spectators during gatherings and events.</li> </ul> <p><u>Non-Educational or Work Gatherings</u></p> <p>NOTE: The PHO Gathering and Events Order <u>does</u> apply to social events such as parties, celebrations, rentals, clubs, and theatre and concert performances. Also workplaces need to increase capacity and large gatherings gradually as do schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This means, for example, that “indoor organized seated gatherings can have a capacity of 50 people or 50% capacity, whichever is greater. For example, if the venue has a normal seated capacity of 500 people, 250 people can attend.”</li> <li>○ Note: The PHO Gatherings and Events Order is expected to end on day April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.</li> </ul> <p><u>Rentals and School Bookings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Organizers</b> of rentals are required to:</li> <li>○ Must spread out in the space.</li> <li>○ Ensuring their participants know and follow the District’s and school’s Communicable Disease Prevention Plan including staying home if sick, hand hygiene, etc.</li> <li>○ Ensure rental participants comply with the provincial public health Orders on <i>Gatherings and Events</i> as well as any Orders stipulating vaccination requirements. Expected to be lifted on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.</li> </ul>
Field Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Same day field trips are permitted. Follow standard processes.</li> <li>○ Overnight in-province trips are permitted. Planning for overnight trips must adhere to the <i>COVID-19 Overnight Safety Plan Guidelines for Field Studies</i>, available on the <i>Field Studies Sharepoint</i> site and be inclusive of the additional COVID-19 specific consents.</li> <li>○ <b>Out of province trips are not permitted this school year.</b></li> <li>○ <b>International trips are not permitted this school year.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planning forward for out-of-province or international trips is permitted at this time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Field trip staff sponsors must ensure that any volunteers providing student supervision are trained in and strictly adhere to the communicable disease prevention requirements in this document.</li> <li>○ For transportation, including school buses, public transit, and carpooling, see section on these topics in this document.</li> <li>○ Staff must plan field studies/trips that align with relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders. See <i>Proof of Vaccination and Gatherings and Events</i> sections in this document.</li> <li>○ The Field studies referenced in this document studies must be approved by the district. This includes routine district approval processes, a safety planning process, and an augmented parent consent form that addresses concerns related to COVID-19 and other communicable diseases or health emergencies.</li> <li>○ See sections on <i>Proof of Vaccination, Sports, and Extracurricular Activities</i></li> </ul>
Proof of Vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ By Order of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), proof of vaccination is required to access some events, services and businesses.</li> <li>○ It is possible that some school-related activities, such as field trips in commercial spaces, or rentals, may require proof of vaccination in BC.</li> <li>○ On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, further restrictions are expected to be lifted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proof of vaccination will <b>no longer be required</b> under public health order to access businesses, events and services</li> <li>○ Individual businesses field trips may wish to attend and event organizers can choose to continue requiring proof of vaccination for entry.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Schools should make every effort to avoid venue/locations that place additional requirements that could prevent a person from being able to participate. If the trip cannot occur otherwise, schools can require participants to confirm they are able to meet additional requirements (e.g., are able to provide proof of vaccination).</li> </ul>

	<p>o School administrators and the District must approve any field studies which require proof of vaccination for any part of the field trip. For simplicity, the following table outlines where proof of vaccination is required ("Yes") and in not required ("No") within K-12.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="479 237 1299 747"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="479 237 885 275">Yes</th> <th data-bbox="885 237 1299 275">No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="479 275 885 747"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restaurants and cafes, and those that offer table service (indoor and outdoor dining)</li> <li>- Pubs, bars and lounges (indoor and outdoor dining)</li> <li>- Night clubs, casinos, movie theatres</li> <li>- Fitness centres/gyms/adult sports/group exercise (indoor)</li> <li>- Organized indoor events with 50 or more people (e.g. wedding receptions, organized parties, conferences, workshops, concerts, theatre, dance, sporting events, recreational classes, etc.)</li> </ul> </td> <td data-bbox="885 275 1299 747"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ALL EDUCATIONAL EVENTS (classrooms, meetings, sports, etc.)</li> <li>- Field trips where the only attendees are those participating in an educational event</li> <li>- Educational events with parent participants (e.g. parent teacher conferences)</li> <li>- Programs for children or youth (&lt;22)</li> <li>- Non-healthcare workplaces</li> <li>- Cafeterias, takeout, and counter service</li> <li>- Libraries and community centres</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>o Note: Changes are expected on April 8<sup>th</sup>,2022 to the Proof of Vaccination requirements. Field trips where attendees participating in the education activity/event are mixed in with others members of the public (e.g., restaurants during field trips, Science World if open to the public at the same time as the field trip) should confirm in advance if proof of vaccination is required and avoid such locations, where feasible. A planning form/guide exists. School administrators should contact Field Services or their Director of Instruction to understand what is and is not permissible.</p> <p>o IMPORTANT: Also see section on <i>Field Trips</i> and the <i>VSB Field Studies Manual</i> on the VSB website for more detail.</p>	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restaurants and cafes, and those that offer table service (indoor and outdoor dining)</li> <li>- Pubs, bars and lounges (indoor and outdoor dining)</li> <li>- Night clubs, casinos, movie theatres</li> <li>- Fitness centres/gyms/adult sports/group exercise (indoor)</li> <li>- Organized indoor events with 50 or more people (e.g. wedding receptions, organized parties, conferences, workshops, concerts, theatre, dance, sporting events, recreational classes, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ALL EDUCATIONAL EVENTS (classrooms, meetings, sports, etc.)</li> <li>- Field trips where the only attendees are those participating in an educational event</li> <li>- Educational events with parent participants (e.g. parent teacher conferences)</li> <li>- Programs for children or youth (&lt;22)</li> <li>- Non-healthcare workplaces</li> <li>- Cafeterias, takeout, and counter service</li> <li>- Libraries and community centres</li> </ul>
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<p>Staff Rooms/Break Rooms</p>	<p>o Staff are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Practice hand hygiene before and after eating or drinking.</li> <li>▪ Spread out in the space.</li> <li>▪ Take their breaks outdoors.</li> <li>▪ Set commonsense occupancy limits for these spaces to avoid crowding</li> </ul> <p>Clean regularly and cleaning supplies are provided in staff rooms to permit staff who wish to disinfect their table before use.</p> <p>NOTE: School administrators and staff are also reminded to consider staff comfort levels when arranging staff rooms and provide options for people to eat by themselves. Staff who choose not to eat or socialize with others in group settings are to be supported and respected by their peers.</p>
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<p>School Main Office</p>	<p>o Spread out in the space and aim to use the space to maximize the efficiency and work-flow needs of the office.</p> <p>o Set commonsense occupancy limits for these spaces to avoid crowding.</p>
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**Transportation and COVID-19 Prevention Measures**

<p>School Buses</p>	<p>o Drivers are to practice hand hygiene often.</p> <p>o Students, and any staff on the bus should clean their hands before and after taking the bus.</p> <p>o Bus drivers, staff, and students may choose to wear masks or face coverings when they are on the bus.</p> <p>o School buses will no longer required a dedicated seating plan.</p> <p>o Spread passengers out if empty seats are available.</p> <p>o Practice respiratory etiquette while on the bus, as always.</p> <p>o School buses will be cleaned once a day and high touch surfaces disinfected 1x/day minimum.</p>
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Public Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Students, staff, and visitors taking mass transit (e.g., municipal buses, SkyTrain, ferries, etc.), must practice hand hygiene before and after trips and follow any other safety guidance issued by the relevant transit authority.</li> <li>o Teachers and students may choose to wear masks or face coverings when they are on the public transit.</li> </ul>
Carpooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o School may use carpooling for transportation to K-12 events/activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o All people in the car may choose to wear masks or face coverings or not.</li> <li>o Spread out vehicle occupants to create space.</li> <li>o Clean hands before and after trips.</li> <li>o Clean frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle 1x/day (as needed).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Curriculum and Other School Activities and COVID-19 Prevention Measures</b>	
Libraries and Learning Commons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Textbooks, paper, paper-based products are safe.</li> <li>o There is little to no evidence that viable COVID-19 and related viruses are transmitted via textbooks, paper, or other paper-based products. <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html</a>.</li> <li>o 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.</li> <li>o The BC Teacher Librarians Association (BCTLA) has developed <a href="#">Recommendation for Access to Library Learning Commons Resources to Meet COVID-19 Requirements</a>. <b>In the case of any discrepancy in guidance, staff are expected to follow the guidance here, in the District Plan.</b></li> </ul>
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Wearing a mask is a personal choice in music class.</li> <li>o When singing, students should not be face-to-face to one another. Distancing and creating space between students, as the space permits, is recommended. Moving to larger spaces or outdoors (weather permitting) to spread out is always encouraged.</li> <li>o Shared equipment must be cleaned and disinfected (see section on Cleaning and Disinfecting Equipment). Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g., instrument mouth pieces, recorders) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between users.</li> <li>o Students and staff are to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using music equipment.</li> <li>o The BC Music Educators Association (BCMEA) has developed <a href="#">Guidance for Music Classes in British Columbia: COVID-19 and Pandemic Recovery</a> (October 2021). <b>In the case of any discrepancy in guidance, staff and students are expected to follow the guidance here, in the District Plan.</b></li> </ul>
Theatre, Film, Dance	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Capacity should follow that outlined within the Gathering and Events Section of this Plan. Staff are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Spread out students within available space</li> <li>o Plan outdoor activities and programs, as much as possible.</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Students are to practice proper hand hygiene.</li> <li>o Shared equipment such as set pieces, props, cameras etc. should be cleaned and disinfected. See Cleaning and Disinfection of Equipment.</li> </ul>
Physical Health Education (PHE) and Outdoor Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Staff and students are to spread out within available space in physical education classes, and outdoor activities and programs are always encouraged, when possible.</li> <li>o Shared equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned and disinfected once a day. As well, equipment that touches the mouth (e.g., water bottles) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between users. See section above on Cleaning and Disinfecting Equipment.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Playgrounds are safe environments and there is no evidence of COVID-19 transmission using playgrounds.</li> </ul>

Playgrounds and Play Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ensure proper hand hygiene before and after play outside.</li> </ul>
School Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o See <i>Extracurricular Activities</i> below regarding intramural sports.</li> <li>o In-school programs and activities (e.g., sports team practices, games) can continue. Inter-school activities can also continue when schools, staff, and students follow the requirements of relevant local, regional, and provincial public health recommendations.</li> <li>o Sport activities are encouraged to be held outside when possible.</li> <li>o Create space between students where practical and reasonable.</li> <li>o Staff and students practice proper hand hygiene before and after sports and after handling shared sports equipment.</li> <li>o Wearing a mask is a personal choice.</li> <li>o Shared equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned and disinfected once a day. As well, equipment that touches the mouth (e.g., water bottles) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between users. See section above on Cleaning and Disinfecting Equipment.</li> <li>o See the <a href="#">Return to School Sports Plan from BC School Sports</a> for additional information. In the case of any discrepancy in guidance, staff and students are expected to follow the guidance here, in the District Plan.</li> </ul>
Extracurricular Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o If extracurricular activities/gatherings/ events are in-person and involve people outside the school staff, students, and essential volunteers (e.g., inter-school sports game, etc), do not exceed 50 people or 50% operating capacity (whichever is greater) and, follow the guidance on spectators under <i>Gathering and Events</i> section. Note: This is expected to return to 100% operating capacity on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. All other prevention measures in this document must also be followed.</li> </ul>
Food Service and Food Fundraisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Staff are to continue to emphasize that food and beverages should not be shared.</li> <li>o Schools can continue to accept food donations to support learning and the delivery of meal programs, etc.</li> <li>o School staff can offer food services and programs again.</li> <li>o Staff are to reinforce all ongoing and COVID-19 related preventative measures in food preparation and service areas. Including: stay home if sick/conduct a Daily Health Check, frequent and proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, spread out in the space available.</li> <li>o For food contact surfaces, school staff (e.g., culinary arts, home economics, meal programs, cafeterias, food fundraisers/events, etc.) must ensure any sanitizers or disinfectants used are approved for use in a food service application as well as are approved for use against COVID-19. These may be different than the products noted in this document for general cleaning and disinfection.</li> <li>o Schools can continue to provide food services, including food for sale and fundraisers. NOTE: Administrators must ensure staff follow the guidance in this Plan and they must align with the <a href="#">Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools</a>.</li> </ul> <p><u>Elementary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Students must be seated while eating indoors. Students in elementary will eat their lunch in their classroom.</li> <li>o Students participating in meal programs will eat individually package lunches in their classrooms with the other students.</li> <li>o School administrators with meal programs are encouraged to maintain the system of meal delivery used at the school last year.</li> </ul> <p><u>Secondary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o If food service is provided in schools that are regulated under the <a href="#">Food Premises Regulation</a> (e.g., cafeterias), no additional measures beyond those articulated in this document and regular requirements as outlined in the regulation need to be implemented (e.g. a <a href="#">FOODSAFE</a> trained</li> </ul>

	<p>staff member, a food safety plan, etc.). No additional measures beyond those in this document are required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Food Safety Legislation</i> and the <a href="#">Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools</a> continue to apply to other food activities in schools, and administrators and staff should follow this guidance.</li> <li>o Cafeterias may operate as normal, Individual secondary schools will implement these and other strategies (e.g. additional hand sanitizer stations, signage, floor signage, set rules regarding lunch, etc ) to create space for students and to enjoy lunch.</li> </ul>
Food Culinary Arts and Home Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Continue to follow normal food safety measures and requirements, a <a href="#">FOODSAFE</a> trained person is required.</li> </ul>
Lockers, Water Fountains, and Washrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o School can assign, and students can use, lockers as it is better for personal items to be stored in a locker than to be stored in classrooms or carried throughout the school.</li> <li>o Schools should implement strategies to manage the flow of students around lockers to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.</li> <li>o Water fountains will be available.</li> <li>o Washroom and sink access will not be limited.</li> </ul>
<b>Post Secondary and Advanced Training - COVID-19 Prevention Measures</b>	
Dual Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Students taking dual credit courses taken in secondary schools, must comply with the preventative measures in this document.</li> <li>o For students taking dual credit courses in post-secondary institutions, schools must ensure students are aware of and adhere to the communicable disease plans set out by post-secondary institutions.</li> </ul>
Trades in Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ensure that staff and students in the K-12 school and the post-secondary institution are aware of the communicable disease prevention measures in place.</li> <li>o Students should conduct their Daily Health Checks when transitioning between the secondary school and post-secondary institution.</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: Given the unique structure of Trades Training Programs and oversight by the <a href="#">Industry Training Authority</a> (ITA), new information on assessments and programming for these courses is available online. Information for workers is available on the <a href="#">WorkSafeBC Communicable Disease Prevention</a>.</p>
Work Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Schools and school districts must ensure students are covered with the required, valid workplace insurance for placements at standard worksites and follow <i>WorkSafeBC</i> guidelines.</li> <li>o Schools and the District will assess and determine if it is safe for their students to continue with existing work placements or to begin new placements, considering any Provincial Health Orders and <i>WorkSafeBC</i> guidance. To ensure awareness and support for placements, school districts and school staff are to obtain parent/guardian sign-off for all new placements.</li> <li>o Students and support workers who accompany special needs students to work sites, life skills course and locations, etc., will adhere to the communicable disease prevention plan of the workplace including wearing PPE if required.</li> <li>o Information for workers is available on the <a href="#">WorkSafeBC Communicable Disease Prevention</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Other COVID-19 Prevention Measures</b>	
Emergency Procedures & Drills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Schools are to complete 6 fire drills/school evacuation drills each year, 2 earthquake drills per year and 2 lockdown drills per year. Partial building evacuations involving smaller groups of students do not comply with the fire bylaws as a fire drill. No modification are required for communicable disease prevention purposes.</li> </ul>

Vaccinations and Childhood Immunizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Vaccination is the best preventative measure a person can have to protect themselves from severe illness due to a communicable disease, including COVID-19.</li> <li>o The District is committed to working with VCH, parents in the school community, and staff to encourage and support the VCH communicable disease mandate to deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Routine childhood immunizations (e.g., measles, mumps, rubella, polio, etc.)</li> <li>o Any vaccinations for emerging communicable diseases (e.g., SARS, COVID-19, etc.).</li> </ul> </li> <li>o The District also offers annual influenza vaccinations to staff.</li> </ul> <p><u>COVID-19 Vaccine</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Vaccination is available from BC public health for people ages 5 years old and up.</li> <li>o Vaccination for COVID-19 protection is encouraged and is known to prevent severe illness.</li> <li>o Public health strongly encourages all eligible students and staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (e.g., receive a minimum of 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine) and then a booster when eligible and recommended by public health to protect themselves and those around them including those who are not eligible to be vaccinated.</li> </ul>
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### Part 3

## Monitoring, Communications, and Review

### Monitoring

The District’s Site Health and Safety Committees are active participants in employee health and safety. They monitor, inspect, review, and recommend improvements, including on communicable disease control measures at sites. As well, the District H&S Committee considers, reviews, and recommends district-wide issues, including those on communicable disease control. Also, the District Health and Safety department monitors activities in schools and workplaces, and ensures the Plan covers current requirements, contains current information, and addresses any concerns identified.

### Communication, Education and Training

- o The District has established the following means of sharing information with staff, students, parents, and others across the organization and in the general public:

#### Information

- o Health and safety information is posted on the [VSB main webpage](#) and staff, parents, and others are encouraged to regularly check back to the webpage for updates or new information on COVID-19 and variants of concern.
- o District staff will receive updates which impact them regarding COVID-19 on a regular basis via the District or managers/supervisors.
- o Students and parents will receive informational emails.
- o All parties are encouraged to visit the VSB main webpage for up to date and current of the District Communicable Disease Prevention Plan.

#### Training and Instruction

- o School administrator orientation sessions and staff training sessions will be lead by the H&S Department.
- o Itinerant staff or those unavailable at the time of these sessions will be able to access this recorded session.

- Classroom staff will provide training to students with the support of a presentation.
- Visitors will be provided information/protocols when making an appointment and at entry to the school/site.
- Contractor information will be provided at the outset of the project/commencement of contract again at entry to the school/site, as well as information being available on the VSB main webpage.

## Review

This document, the District Communicable Disease Prevention Plan, is a living document and subject to changes and updates. This Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis and/or when there is a significant change in risk, and when there are changes to public health, BC Ministry of Education and BCCDC guidance documents and instructions for the prevention of communicable diseases. For a current version of this Plan visit the VSB main website at [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca)

## References

- [\*Addendum - Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings\*](#)
  - BC Government, December 29, 2021
- [\*Addendum - Coronavirus COVID-19, Addendum - Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools\*](#)
  - BC Centre for Disease Control, BC Ministry of Health, December 29, 2021
- [\*Coronavirus COVID-19 - Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 School,\*](#)
  - BC Ministry of Health, BC Centre for Disease Control, March 10, 2022
- [\*Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings\*](#)
  - BC Government, March 10, 2022
- [\*BC Provincial Health Officer, Public Health Orders\*](#)
  - Ongoing

## APPENDIX A: Vancouver School District Risk-Assessment Chart

The *Communicable Disease Prevention Plan Including COVID-19 Prevention Procedures* covers the following respiratory illnesses; all are present in the community at large to some extent. The listed illnesses share common control measures such as conduct a daily health check before attending and stay home if sick, practice diligent hand hygiene, and practice proper respiratory etiquette. Ultimately, risk is determined by public health.

Source: Gov. Canada with input from VCH

Illness	Status and Level of Incidence	Description of Symptoms
Common cold (viral)	Endemic, Moderate levels of incidence	Symptoms: fever; cough; runny nose and sneezing.  Transmission: person-to-person via droplets, coughing, sneezing, or talking; sharing items; touching contaminated objects.
Influenza	Endemic, Moderate levels of incidence  *Annual Vaccine Available	Symptoms: fever; cough; sore throat; runny or stuffy nose; muscle/body aches; headaches; fatigue; sometimes vomiting and diarrhea  Transmission: person-to-person via droplets, coughing, sneezing, or talking; sharing items; touching contaminated objects
COVID-19	Pandemic, transitioning to Endemic, Moderate -high levels of incidence  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.  Transmission: Person-to-person via droplets, coughing, sneezing, or talking; sharing items; touching contaminated objects.
Pneumococcal Disease	Endemic, Moderate levels of incidence  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms of pneumococcal pneumonia: fever and chills; cough; rapid breathing or difficulty breathing; and chest pain. Symptoms pneumococcal meningitis: stiff neck; fever; headache; photophobia; confusion. Symptoms of pneumococcal bacteremia: fever; chills; low alertness; transmission.  Transmission: Direct contact with respiratory secretions, like saliva or mucus.
Chicken Pox	Endemic, Moderate levels of incidence  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms: fever; cough; muscle ache; body rash.  Transmission: Person-to-person via breathing, coughs or sneezes; contact with fluid of a chickenpox blister.
Measles	Disease under elimination  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms: Fever; runny nose; watery eyes; reds spots in mouth; red rash on face and body.  Transmission: Person-to-person via droplets in air, coughing, sneezing, or talking.
Mumps	Endemic, Low levels of incidence  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms: Swollen glands near ears or under jaw; fever; headache, ear ache.  Transmission: Person-to-person droplets in air, coughing, sneezing, or talking; contact with saliva.
Rubella (German Measles)	Disease under elimination  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms: Red or pink rash on face and body; swollen glands behind ears; slight fever; joint pain.  Transmission: Person-to-person via droplets coughed, sneezed, or breathed into air; contact with discharge from nose.
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	Endemic, Moderate levels of incidence  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms early stages: runny nose; low-grade fever; mild, occasional cough. Symptoms later stages: coughing fits followed by a high-pitched "whoop" sound; vomiting during or after coughing fits and exhaustion after coughing fits.  Transmission: Person-to-person via droplets coughed, sneezed, or breathed into air in close spaces.
*Norovirus	Endemic, Low levels of incidence	Symptoms: upset stomach; vomiting; diarrhea; cramping; chills or mild fever.  Transmission: touching contaminated objects/food and touching nose/mouth.  (*Note: Not a respiratory disease. However, prevention measures for norovirus are the same as for other listed communicable diseases and norovirus is seasonally experienced in some K-12 schools).

## APPENDIX B Daily Health Check – What to Do When Sick

To view or download [Daily Health Check and What to Do When Sick](#)

# Daily Health Check & What to Do When Sick



## Daily Health Check

Everyone going into a District school or site must complete a daily health check, including staff, students, and visitors. A daily health check means checking yourself or your child for new symptoms of illness, including symptoms of COVID-19.

Symptoms of illness (including COVID-19) include:

- Fever or chills
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny nose
- Headache
- Body aches
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Sneezing
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

**If you are sick or feel unwell, stay at home. This is important to stop the spread of illness, including COVID-19, in schools and worksites.**

**You can attend school/work if:**

- Your symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies), OR
- You have existing symptoms that have improved to where you feel well enough to return to regular activities, AND
- You are not required to self-isolate, or your self-isolation period is over (based on a positive COVID-19 test result, if taken).

## What to Do When Sick

**If you have mild symptoms of COVID-19**, you usually don't need a test. Mild symptoms are symptoms that can be managed at home. Most people don't need testing for COVID-19.

Stay home and away from others (as much as possible) until you feel well enough to return to your regular activities and you no longer have a fever. You should also avoid non-essential visits to higher risk settings such as long term care facilities and gatherings, for another 5 days after ending isolation.

If you have a Rapid Antigen Test at home, use it when you have symptoms. How long you should stay home depends on your test result. Find out more about [Rapid Antigen Test results](#).

**If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19**, you do not need a test.

**If you are unsure about your symptoms**, you can use the [Self-Assessment Tool](#), contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

Testing may be recommended for some people who may be more likely to get severe disease. See BCCDC for information on [who testing is recommended for](#).

## What to Do if Someone in Your Household is Sick

You can continue to attend school if someone in your household is sick and/or self-isolating as long as you do not have any symptoms of illness and feel well. This includes if they have tested positive for COVID-19.

Try to stay apart from the person in your household who is sick as much as possible.

Ensure you closely monitor yourself (or your child) for symptoms of illness and stay home if you develop symptoms of illness or feel unwell.

## If You Test Positive for COVID-19

Your age and vaccination status determine how long you should self-isolate for if you test positive for COVID-19.

Age	Vaccination Status	Guidance
Under 18 years of age	Unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or fully vaccinated	Self-isolate at home for 5 days AND until your symptoms improve and you no longer have a fever. Avoid non-essential visits to higher risk settings like long-term care facilities and gatherings for another 5 days after ending isolation.
18 years of age or older	Fully vaccinated	
	NOT fully vaccinated	Self-isolate at home for 10 days AND until your symptoms improve and you no longer have a fever.

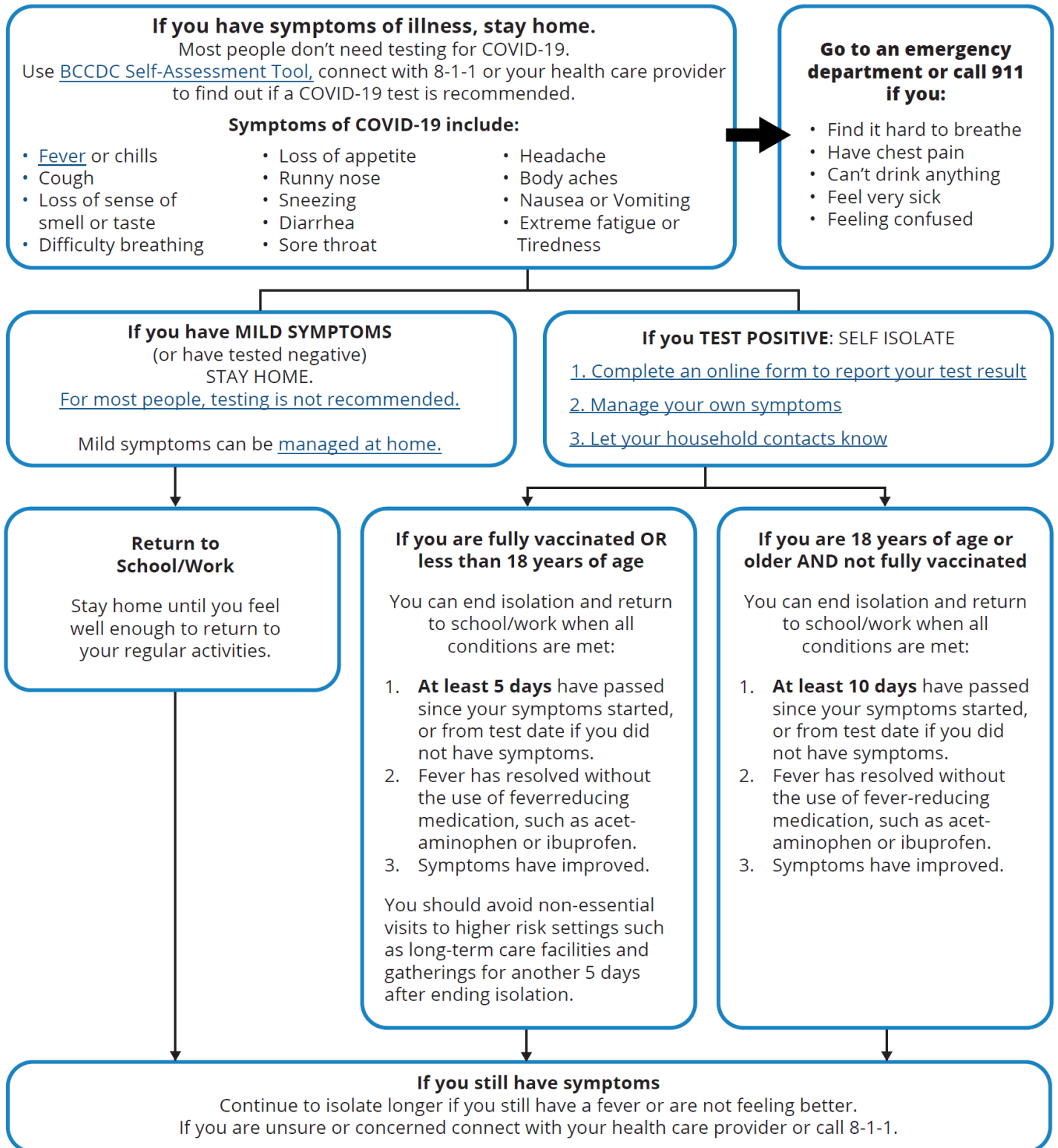
Close contacts, who are usually others in your household, do not need to self-isolate (regardless of vaccination status), but should closely self-monitor for symptoms. BCCDC has more information for [close contacts](#).

**If you find it hard to breathe, have chest pain, can't drink anything, feel very sick, and/or feel confused, contact your health care provider right away or go to your local emergency department or call 9-1-1.**

This information is adapted from the BC Centre for Disease Control.  
For more information, visit <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>



# Summary: What to Do When Sick



## What to do if someone is sick in your household:

You can continue to attend school if someone in your household is sick and/or self-isolating as long as you do not have any symptoms of illness and feel well. This includes if they have tested positive for COVID-19. Ensure you closely monitor yourself (or your child) for symptoms of illness and stay home if you feel unwell. The best way to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. Vaccines are available for anyone ages 5 and up. Register now at: [Getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca](http://Getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca)

## International Travel and Attendance at School

In addition to the Daily Health Check, there are certain federal restrictions on attendance at school following international travel:

\*\*NOTE: Visit [travel.gc.ca](https://travel.gc.ca) for current and complete guidance regarding return from international travel.

Those who are not fully vaccinated and travel outside Canada must follow all federal testing and quarantine requirements. For students, staff, and other adults, this includes not attending school for 14 DAYS following their return, according to federal travel guidance around COVID-19. This applies to travel by land, air or sea, regardless of negative COVID test results. *Some limited exemptions exist.*

- **Children under 12 years of age who are NOT fully vaccinated**
  - Cannot attend school for 14 days after returning to Canada.
    - This federal requirement is specific to attendance at school, camp, team sports or daycare and differs from quarantine related to international travel
- **Youth from 12 to 17 years of age who are NOT fully vaccinated**
  - Are subject to the 14-day quarantine and all testing requirements for pre-entry to Canada.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** As of April 1, 2022, the federal government of Canada will change the entry requirements to Canada which may include no longer requiring testing. As always, anyone travelling is solely responsible for understanding any guidance or restrictions in place by the federal government for returning to Canada.

## APPENDIX C: Managing Staff and Students who Develop Symptoms of COVID-19 or Other Communicable Diseases While at School/Work

Staff	Student
<p><b>IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS <u>AT WORK</u>:</b></p> <p><b>Symptomatic employees must report their condition, leave the building/worksite immediately, and go home <i>as soon as possible</i>.</b></p> <p><b>If unable to leave the worksite immediately, staff must take the following steps:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The symptomatic employee should separate/isolate themselves into an area away from others (e.g., outside, in the designated health/isolation room).</li> <li>2. Maintain a distance from all others.</li> <li>3. The symptomatic employee will wear a non-medical face mask if tolerated (disposable masks are available in the school health/isolation room) or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth while waiting to be picked up.</li> <li>4. Staff accompanying the symptomatic employee or providing first aid to them are advised to wear a disposable non-medical mask and safety eyewear or a face shield to protect their eyes (available in health/isolation room).</li> <li>5. Once the symptomatic employee is picked up/gone home, the building engineer/custodial staff will clean and disinfect the space where the employee was separated/isolated and any areas used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).</li> <li>6. Once the symptomatic employee leaves the school, properly dispose of any used paper non-medical masks in a waste bin, or clean fabric masks, and practice diligent hand hygiene.</li> <li>7. The symptomatic employee will notify their administrator/supervisor of their need to leave the site unexpectedly for medical reasons. Staff are under no obligation to reveal private medical information to their administrator/supervisor.</li> </ol>	<p><b>IF A STUDENT DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS <u>AT SCHOOL</u>:</b></p> <p><b>Staff must take the following steps:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Immediately separate the symptomatic/ill student from others in the designated health/isolation room.</li> <li>2. Contact the student’s parent/guardian to pick them up as soon as possible.</li> <li>3. Where possible, maintain a distance from the ill student. If it is not possible to maintain distance from the ill student, staff are advised to wear a disposable non-medical mask if available and tolerated or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth and wear safety eyewear or a face shield to protect your eyes (available in health/isolation room).</li> <li>4. Provide the student with a disposable non-medical mask or tissues to cover their coughs or sneezes. Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene.</li> <li>5. Avoid touching the student’s body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva). If staff do have contact with the student’s body fluids, practice diligent hand hygiene right away.</li> <li>6. Once the student is picked up, properly dispose of paper non-medical masks in a waste bin, or clean fabric masks and practice diligent hand hygiene.</li> <li>7. The building engineer/custodial staff will clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated/isolated and the student’s classroom.</li> </ol> <p><b>Parents/guardians must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.</b></p>
<p><b>Students and staff should return to school according to the guidance under the “<i>What to do if you have COVID-19 Symptoms</i>” section in this Plan. A healthcare provider’s note is not required for return.</b></p>	

# Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health

## Hand Hygiene

**SOAP OR ALCOHOL-BASED HAND RUB: Which is best?**

Either will clean your hands: use soap and water if hands are visibly soiled.

Remove hand and wrist jewellery

### HOW TO HAND WASH

- Wet hands with warm (not hot or cold) running water
- Apply liquid or foam soap
- Lather soap covering all surfaces of hands for 20-30 seconds
- Rinse thoroughly under running water
- Pat hands dry thoroughly with paper towel
- Use paper towel to turn off the tap

### HOW TO USE HAND RUB

- Ensure hands are visibly clean (if soiled, follow hand washing steps)
- Apply about a loonie-sized amount to your hands
- Rub all surfaces of your hand and wrist until completely dry (15-20 seconds)

COVID19\_HH\_L001

Ministry of Health

BC Centre for Disease Control

If you have fever, a new cough, or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.

## APPENDIX E: How to Wear a Face Mask

### Procedure for Donning, Doffing and Caring for a Non-Medical Mask



Sources: [open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-help-prevent-the-spread-poster](https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-help-prevent-the-spread-poster); [Health Canada.ca](https://www.healthcanada.ca) wearing a face mask

### *Additional Protocols for Safely Wearing and Caring for a Face Mask*

#### **DO:**

- Wear a 3 layered mask.
- Focus on a good fit.
- Make sure your nose and mouth are fully covered, it fits securely, and there are no gaps on the sides
- Make sure your mask isn't damaged, and it's clean and dry before wearing
- Replace your mask whenever it becomes damp or dirty
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer before and after touching the mask
- Use the ear loops or ties to put on and remove your mask
- Store your mask in a clean paper bag when it is not in use
- Wash your mask with hot soapy water and let it dry completely before using it again

#### **DON'T:**

- Wear masks that are damaged, dirty, or moist
- Touch the mask while wearing it
- Wear a loose mask or adjust it to leak/vent air
- Hang the mask from your neck or ears
- Remove the mask to talk to someone face to face
- Share your mask with anyone
- Store your mask where it may easily become soiled (e.g., unprotected in a purse, pocket, backpack, etc.)

## APPENDIX F: Donning and Doffing of Gloves Procedure

