

Vancouver School District 2025

Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

Version 13

September 2, 2025

This document is based on guidance published on
September 15, 2023 by
the Province of BC, the BC Centre for Disease Control,
the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care, and
Vancouver Coastal Health.

Go to www.vsb.bc.ca for most current version

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

Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Land and Territorial Acknowledgment..... | 4 |
| Regulatory Compliance..... | 4 |
| Purpose..... | 4 |
| Key Principles..... | 4 |
| Trauma-Informed Schools/Workplaces and Actions | 5 |
| Supportive School Environments | 6 |
| PART 1..... | 6 |
| Scope | 6 |
| What is a Communicable Disease? | 6 |
| Roles and Responsibilities..... | 7 |
| Risk Identification and Assessment | 8 |
| Risk Control..... | 8 |
| Responding to Elevated Risk | 9 |
| Communicable Disease Prevention Controls | 10 |
| PART 3..... | 18 |
| Monitoring, Communications, and Review | 18 |
| References..... | 19 |
| APPENDIX A: Vancouver School District Risk-Assessment Chart..... | 20 |
| APPENDIX B: VCH When Should I Keep My Sick Child Home From School? | 21 |
| | 21 |
| APPENDIX C: Managing Staff and Students who Develop Symptoms of Communicable Diseases While at School/Work | 22 |
| APPENDIX D: Hand Hygiene..... | 23 |
| APPENDIX E: How to Wear a Face Mask | 24 |
| APPENDIX F: Donning and Doffing of Gloves Procedure | 25 |
| APPENDIX G: Administrator Protocols for Managing Communicable Disease Activity at School | 26 |
| Revision Log..... | 27 |

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 3 of 27 |

Land and Territorial Acknowledgment

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the hən̓q̓əmi̓nəm̓ speaking people of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw(Squamish Nation) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Regulatory Compliance

This plan aligns with the intent of the:

- [B.C. Workers Compensation Act](#)
- [B.C. Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#)
- [Office of the Provincial Health Officer – Current Health Issues](#)
- *Vancouver Coastal Health, Medical Health Officers - providing regional directions*
- [Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings \(September 2023\)](#)
- [BCCDC Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools \(PDF\) - Updated September 13, 2023](#)

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 specific measures additional 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.

Key Principles

The Ministry of Education has identified the following principles to guide the K-12 sector

- Communicable disease prevention measures are aligned with public health guidance to support student and staff wellness.
- Using an inclusive and trauma-informed lens, with a focus on mental health and wellness.
- Focusing supports to address unique student and staff needs, recognizing the pandemic has impacted

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 4 of 27 |

individuals and communities differently.

- Consulting and working with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples to address the unique educational and learning needs of their communities.
- Engaging and collaborating with parents/caregivers, staff, unions and community partners to develop local solutions when needed.
- As required by WorkSafeBC, all boards of education, independent school authorities & schools must ensure the health of their workers by ensuring that steps are taken to reduce the risk to workers from communicable diseases.
- The Provincial Health Officer or local Medical Health Officers may issue temporary provincial, regional or local recommendations or orders of additional prevention measures during times of increased communicable disease risk.

Indigenous Students (First Nations, Metis and Inuit)

Communicable disease outbreaks and pandemics have a disproportionate impact on First Nations and Indigenous communities. The District will identify First Nations and Indigenous learners whose educational outcomes may be negatively impacted during periods of increased risk of communicable disease in the community and make accommodations to ensure these students are supported. The needs of First Nations and Indigenous learners who require additional supports will be planned for and prioritized in partnership with parents/caregivers and communities.

As per the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA), the District will engage with First Nations to identify the transportation needs of First Nations learners living on reserves. The District will collaborate with First Nations to ensure there are equitable and safe transportation opportunities for students.

Trauma-Informed Schools/Workplaces and Actions

Trauma-informed practice is a compassionate lens of understanding that is helpful to all children, youth and adults, especially those who have experienced traumatic events including the emotional and traumatic impact of a pandemic. Trauma-informed practice includes:

- Providing inclusive and compassionate learning environments
- Understanding coping strategies
- Supporting independence
- Helping to minimize additional stress or trauma by addressing individual needs of students and staff

Educators and support staff should be aware of changes in student behavior, including trauma-related behaviors which may include fear; hyperactivity; aggression; body aches and pain; depression; self-harming behaviors; excessive shyness; or withdrawal. To support educators and staff in identifying and responding to the needs of students who have experienced trauma, the Ministry has created [trauma-informed practice resources](#) that are available on the [ERASE \(Expect Respect & A Safe Education\) website](#).

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 should respect the choices of others choosing to practice additional personal prevention measures (e.g., wearing a mask, wearing a face shield etc).

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 5 of 27 |

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.

Supportive School Environments

Schools can be supportive environments for communicable disease prevention by:

- Having staff model personal practices (e.g., hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette), and assist younger students as needed.
- Sharing reliable information, including from the BC Centre for Disease Control, Office of the Provincial Health Officer, and local health authorities to parents, families and caregivers.
- Promoting personal practices in the school (e.g., posters).
- Ensuring individual choices for personal practices (e.g., choosing to wear a mask or face covering) are supported and treated with respect, recognizing varying personal comfort levels.
- Showing awareness and sensitivity to the complex and devastating history that pandemics have had on many First Nations and Indigenous communities.
- Understanding that some First Nations families and communities may continue to take increased safety measures, which may mean that some students will not attend in-person instruction during periods of increased risk in communities.
- Implementing communicable disease prevention measures that promote inclusion of students with disabilities/diverse abilities.

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.

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.

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 or school include the common cold and seasonal influenza as well as norovirus-like illnesses, chickenpox, and COVID- 19.

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

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 6 of 27 |

- 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 [Quick Guide to Common Childhood Diseases](#) or [HealthLinkBC Files](#) to review fact sheets for individual illnesses and diseases which may impact students and staff. District staff can refer to [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 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.

School Administrators, Managers, and Supervisors:

- Advise staff and students with symptoms of a communicable disease to stay home when feeling unwell to reduce the spread of illness and only return if their fever or vomiting or diarrhea has resolved without the use of medicines and they are able to participate fully in their usual activities.
- Send home staff or students who become ill with symptoms of a communicable disease and only return if their fever has resolved and they are able to participate fully in their usual activities.
- Share the VCH document [When should I keep my sick child home from school?](#) (see Appendix B) with parents/caregivers and students.
- 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.
- Contact Public Health and VSB Health & Safety if they have concerns about communicable disease transmission within the school setting such as if there are worrisome symptoms (e.g. many cases of vomiting, diarrhea, rashes etc.) linked to high absenteeism and require additional support. (See Appendix G: Administrator Protocols for Managing Communicable Disease Activity at School)
- Follow the BCCDC’s Schools page which includes the K-12 Public Health Guidance and prevention advice for administrators <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools/schools>

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 7 of 27 |

Staff/Employees:

- Remain home if sick and away from others until your fever, vomiting or diarrhea has resolved without the use of medicines, and you feel well enough to participate in daily activities.
- 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

- If sick, stay home and away from others until your fever, vomiting, and diarrhea have been resolved without the use of medicines, and you feel well enough to participate in daily activities.
- Comply with the direction of school administrators, managers, supervisors, and staff with respect to communicable disease control measures.

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.

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.

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

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 8 of 27 |

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 for 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 they are 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:
 - Promote staff and students to stay home when sick and if they have a fever and/or are not feeling well enough to participate fully in their usual activities.
 - Promote health awareness and encourage staff/students/visitors to stay home when sick.
 - Send home staff or students who Develop Symptoms of COVID- 19 or other Communicable Diseases While at School/Work.
 - Remind staff and students to respect the personal space of others-
 - 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 the risk of contact with infectious agents. These include:
 - The use of cloth 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
 - Face shields or goggles (as needed for occupational task e.g., spitting behaviour).
 - Gloves - as needed for occupational tasks (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

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 9 of 27 |

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 monitor attendance daily and will report concerns to 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.

| Ongoing and Daily Communicable Disease Prevention Measures | |
|--|--|
| Illness Practices | <p>Staff, students, visitors and contractors should not come to work/school if they are sick and/or have a fever, vomiting or diarrhea and are not well enough to participate fully in routine activities. Parents/caregivers and students can utilize the Vancouver Coastal Health document “When should I keep my sick child home from school” See Appendix B When should I keep my sick child home from school</p> <p>Staff, students, or other persons can attend school if their symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies) or symptoms have improved enough to where they feel well enough to return to regular activities and their fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g., ibuprofen, acetaminophen).</p> <p>Schools do not need to monitor students or staff for symptoms of illness but must follow Appendix C Managing Staff and Students who Develop Symptoms of Communicable Diseases While at School/Work-</p> |
| Sign-In/Out of Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only visitors on school/district business are permitted at schools and sites. ○ All visitors must sign in at the School Office upon arrival at the site. ○ Drop in visitors are welcome, however; appointments are requested and appreciated. ○ Schools do not need to keep contact information (e.g. telephone numbers) of visitors for communicable disease prevention purposes. |
| Hand Hygiene | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. ○ Staff and students should refrain from touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands. ○ Hand sanitizer will be provided to classrooms that do not have easy access to sinks for hand washing. ○ Hand sanitizer will be supplied to other areas as determined by site management with recommendations from the Site H&S Committee. ○ Staff should assist younger students with hand hygiene as needed. ○ 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. |

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 10 of 27 |

- o The following table outlines when staff and students are to practice hand hygiene.

| 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. |

- o See Appendix C for instructions on proper Hand Hygiene.

Respiratory Etiquette

- 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.

General Cleaning of the School or Site

- o Schools will be cleaned and disinfected as per BCCDC guidance for public schools.
- o VSB Operations staff will conduct general cleaning of the premises 1x/day (e.g., school or site flooring, garbage removal, cleaning visibly dirty surfaces, etc.).
- 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).
- 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.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Frequently Touched Surfaces/Items

- o Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day and when visibly dirty by VSB Operation using the following procedure [WP-S17E Cleaning of High Contact Surfaces](#)
- o VSB Operations staff will clean and disinfect the following frequently touched surfaces:
 - o Items used by larger numbers of students and staff, including doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, water fountains, faucet handles, and toilet handles.
- o Service counters (e.g., office reception counters, library circulation desk). Desks used by students will be cleaned 1x/week.
- o Classrooms that have an outbreak of an infection (the occurrence of more cases of disease than expected in a given area or among a specific group of people over a particular period of time e.g. >10% of a classroom) will receive a deep clean/fogging disinfection. Contact the Health and Safety department to arrange the deep cleaning.
- 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:
 - o Computer keyboards and tablets, PE/sports equipment, etc clean 1x/day
 - o Appliances which are shared such as microwaves, refrigerators, coffee pots/machines, etc.
 - 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, and
 - o Frequently touched surfaces may change from day to day based on utilization.

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 11 of 27 |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p><u>NOTE:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Carpets and rugs (e.g. in Kindergarten and <i>StrongStart</i> classes) can be used. • There is little to no evidence that viable COVID-19 viruses are transmitted via textbooks, paper, or other paper-based products. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html. • 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. • Personal items are to be kept to a minimum - they will not be cleaned by the custodial staff. <p><u>Cleanings and Disinfecting Blood and Body Fluids</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Custodial staff follow the D: Clean-Up of Bodily Fluids procedures when cleaning and disinfecting bodily fluids (e.g., vomit, stool, urine): <p><u>Laundry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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"> ○ Laundry should be placed in a laundry basket with a plastic liner. Do not shake dirty items. ○ Wearing gloves is optional. If choosing to wear gloves, ensure hand hygiene is performed before and after use. No other PPE is required. ○ Wash with regular laundry soap and hot water (60-90°C). ○ Proper hand hygiene is required after. |
| <p>Ventilation and Air Conditioning</p> | <p>Current K-12 guidance for Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Systems (“HVAC systems”) indicates that systems that are operating properly are not known to contribute to the spread of communicable diseases. The District actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District building systems are operated to meet the objectives defined by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air- Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) where the equipment allows for it. • The District regularly checks ASHRAE for operational updates and will make adjustments, as needed. • Where building systems allow, the District is guided by the ASHRAE document Design Guidance for Education Facilities: Prioritization for Advanced Indoor Air Quality Version 2.0 (2023) in supporting control of communicable disease including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maximizing the amount of outdoor air supplied within the capacity of the heating systems during occupancy. ○ Providing maximum possible occupant control over rooms by ensuring windows and any venting louvres (if applicable) are functional and operating. ○ Managing air distribution through building automation control systems. <p>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’s. Avoid horizontal cross breezes.</p> |
| <p>Access to Schools</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appointments for school business are recommended and appreciated. ○ Schools and district sites are open for drop-in visitors as well as spectators at events (where invitations are provided by the school). ○ Parents/guardians, visitors on school business, ongoing volunteers, and people providing academic support may visit by appointment approved by the school administrator. ○ 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. |

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 12 of 27 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Space Arrangement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Classroom and learning environment configurations and activities can be configured in ways that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches. ○ 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. |
| Gatherings and Events | <p>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 up to maximum occupancy limits of the space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School administrators and staff are to plan for and ensure that enough space is available to prevent over-crowding. ○ Masks are a personal choice for staff, students, and visitors/spectators during gatherings and events. <p><u>Rentals and School Bookings</u></p> <p>Organizers of rentals are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follow normal practices for community use of schools ○ Ensure their participants know and follow the District’s and school’s Communicable Disease Prevention Plan including staying home if sick, hand hygiene, etc. |
| Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) | <p><u>Face Masks and Face Shields</u></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>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>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.</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><u>Plexiglass</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plexiglass droplet barriers are no longer recommended by public health. ○ 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. <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Note: Existing plexiglass and other barriers at public reception areas can remain in place at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plexiglass droplet barriers for the purpose of communicable disease prevention are no longer available to be added to a school or workplace <p>Note: Staff may choose to use face shields, available at schools, to replace plexiglass. Using a face shield is a personal choice.</p> |

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 13 of 27 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Field Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Day field trips and overnight trips are permitted. ○ International student travel is allowed for grades 10-12. ○ Check the VSB Field Studies page for further details and restrictions. ○ Schools should consider guidance provided for overnight camps from BCCDC and the BC Camps Association when planning overnight trips that include group accommodation. ○ 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, mask wearing, if required). |
| Staff Rooms/Break Rooms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff are encouraged to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practice hand hygiene before and after eating or drinking. ▪ Set commonsense occupancy limits for these spaces to avoid crowding ○ Cleaning supplies are provided in staff rooms to permit staff who wish to disinfect their table before use. ○ 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. |
| School Main Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spread out in the space and aim to use the space to maximize the efficiency and work-flow needs of the office. ○ Set commonsense occupancy limits for these spaces to avoid crowding. |
| Students with disabilities/diverse abilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In-class instruction may not be suitable for some children (or families) with a severe immune compromise or medical complexity and will be determined on a case-by-case basis with a medical care provider. ○ Schools will follow regular practices for those needing alternative learning arrangements due to immune compromise or medical complexity to ensure access to learning and supports. ○ Staff providing health services that require being in close proximity to a student will follow the student's individual care plan (if one is in place) and their standard risk assessment methods to determine what PPE is needed for communicable disease prevention (e.g., gloves for toileting). |
| Transportation | |
| School Buses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buses used for transporting students will be cleaned once a day and high touch surfaces disinfected 1x/day minimum. ○ Bus drivers, staff, and students will practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. ○ Bus drivers, staff, and students may choose to wear masks or face coverings when they are on the bus. ○ Buses do not require a dedicated seating plan. |
| Public Transit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. ○ Teachers and students may choose to wear masks or face coverings when they are on the public transit. |
| Carpooling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools may use carpooling for transportation to K-12 events/activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All people in the car may choose to wear masks or face coverings or not. ○ Spread out vehicle occupants to create space. ○ Clean hands before and after trips. ○ Clean frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle 1x/day (as needed). |

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 14 of 27 |

| Curriculum and Other School Activities | |
|--|--|
| Libraries and Learning Commons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbooks, paper, and paper-based products are safe. 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. There is little to no evidence that viable COVID-19 and related viruses are transmitted via textbooks, paper, or other paper-based products. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html. The BC Teacher Librarians Association (BCTLA) has developed Recommendation for Access to Library Learning Commons Resources to Meet COVID-19 Requirements. In the case of any discrepancy in guidance, staff are expected to follow the guidance here, in the District Plan. |
| Music | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wearing a mask is a personal choice in music class. When singing, students should not be face-to-face to one another. Distancing and creating space between students, as the space permits, is recommended. 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. Students and staff are to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using music equipment. The BC Music Educators Association (BCMEA) has developed Guidance for Music Classes in British Columbia: COVID-19 and Pandemic Recovery (October 2021). In the case of any discrepancy in guidance, staff and students are expected to follow the guidance here, in the District Plan. |
| 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 to use classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are to practice proper hand hygiene. Shared equipment such as set pieces, props, cameras etc. should be cleaned and disinfected. See Cleaning and Disinfection of Equipment. |
| Physical Health Education (PHE) and Outdoor Programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. |
| Playgrounds and Play Fields | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgrounds are safe environments and there is no evidence of Communicable disease transmission using playgrounds. Ensure proper hand hygiene before and after play outside. |

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 15 of 27 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| School Sports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See <i>Extracurricular Activities</i> below regarding intramural sports. ○ 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. ○ Staff and students practice proper hand hygiene before and after sports and after handling shared sports equipment. ○ Wearing a mask is a personal choice. ○ 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. ○ See the Return to School Sports Plan from BC School Sports 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. |
| Extracurricular Activities | All prevention measures in this document must be followed (e.g., cleaning and disinfecting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette) including those specific to the activity. |
| Food Service and Food Fundraisers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff are to continue to emphasize that food and beverages should not be shared. ○ Schools can continue to accept food donations to support learning and the delivery of meal programs, etc. ○ School staff can offer food services and programs again ○ Staff are to reinforce all ongoing communicable disease related preventative measures in food preparation and service areas. Including: staying home if sick and/or have a fever and are not well enough to participate fully in routine activities., frequent and proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and respect the personal space of others. ○ 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 applications. These may be different than the products noted in this document for general cleaning and disinfection. ○ 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 BC school food toolkit and follow the VSB Food Event Resources and Template. <p><u>Elementary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools will develop a plan that will make use of available space (e.g., lunchrooms, classrooms, activity spaces, or combination of etc.), as they deemed appropriate, and that allows for each student to be seated at a table while eating. ○ Schools with meal programs can return to their normal pre-pandemic practices of meal delivery and serving food. Individually packaged lunches are no longer required. <p><u>Secondary</u></p> <p>If food service is provided in schools that are regulated under the Food Premises Regulation (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 FOODSAFE trained staff member, a food safety plan, etc.). No additional measures beyond those in this document are required.</p> |
| Food Culinary Arts and Home Economics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Food Safety Legislation</i> and the BC school food toolkit continue to apply to other food activities in schools, and administrators and staff should follow this guidance. ○ 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. ○ Continue to follow normal food safety measures and requirements. ○ Have a FOODSAFE trained person. |

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 16 of 27 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Lockers, Water Fountains, and Washrooms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. o Schools should implement strategies to manage the flow of students around lockers to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through. o Water fountains will be available. o Washroom and sink access will not be limited. |
|---|---|

Post Secondary and Advanced Training

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Dual Credit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Students taking dual credit courses taken in secondary schools, must comply with the preventative measures in this document. 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. |
|-------------|--|

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Trades in Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Students enrolled in individual training/work experience programs should follow the communicable disease prevention plan required by the workplace/facility or post-secondary institution. Classes (or other similar groupings of students) participating in training/work experience programs together should follow the more stringent measures (if applicable) between the school and the workplace/facility's communicable disease prevention plans. <p>NOTE: Given the unique structure of Trades Training Programs and oversight by Skilled Trades BC, new information on assessments and programming for these courses is available online. Information for workers is available on the WorkSafeBC Communicable Disease Prevention.</p> |
|--------------------|--|

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Work Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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. o Information for workers is available on the WorkSafeBC Communicable Disease Prevention. |
|-----------------|--|

Other Communicable Disease Prevention Measures

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Emergency Procedures & Drills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Schools are to complete 6 fire drills/school evacuation drills each year, 2 earthquake drills per year and 2 lockdown drills per year. No modifications are required for communicable disease prevention purposes. |
|-------------------------------|--|

| | |
|--|---|
| Vaccinations and Childhood Immunizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Students and staff are encouraged to ensure they are up to date on all recommended vaccines for communicable disease. 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"> o Routine childhood immunizations (e.g., measles, mumps, rubella, polio, etc.) o Any vaccinations for emerging communicable diseases (e.g., SARS, COVID-19, etc.). |
|--|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| International Travel and Attendance at School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There may be certain federal restrictions on attendance at school following international travel. Visit https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid for current and complete guidance regarding return from international travel. |
|---|---|

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 17 of 27 |

PART 3

Monitoring, Communications, and Review

Monitoring

The District's Site Health and Safety Working Group are active participants in employee health and safety. They monitor, inspect, review, and recommend improvements, including communicable disease control measures at sites. In addition, the District H&S Working Group 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

- 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

- 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 communicable disease.
- District staff will receive updates which impact them regarding communicable disease via the District or managers/supervisors when required.
- Students and parents will receive informational emails.
- All parties are encouraged to visit the VSB main webpage for the most current VSB District Communicable Disease Prevention Plan.

Training and Instruction

- School administrators deliver staff training sessions with materials developed by the VSB H&S Department.
- Itinerant staff or those unavailable at the time of these sessions will be able to access these materials.
- 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

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 18 of 27 |

References

- [*BCCDC Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools \(PDF\) – BC Centre for Disease Control, BC Ministry of health, Updated September 13, 2023*](#)
- [*Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, BC Government \(September 2023\)*](#)
- [*Office of the Provincial Health Officer – Current Health Issues*](#)

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 19 of 27 |

APPENDIX A: Vancouver School District Risk-Assessment Chart

The *Communicable Disease Prevention Plan* covers the following respiratory illnesses; all are present in the community at large to some extent. The risk level 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; red spots in mouth; red rash on face and body. Transmission: Person-to-person via droplets in air, coughing, sneezing, or talking. |
| Fifth Disease | Sporadic, Low levels of incidence | Symptoms: Runny nose, sore throat, headache and rash that generally affects children between 4 and 10 years of age. Transmission: Person-to-person via aerosols, respiratory secretions, or saliva droplets. |
| Monkey Pox | Monitored, Low levels of incidence *Vaccine Available | Symptoms: A rash accompanied by any one or more of the following; fever, chills, swollen lymph nodes, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, back pain and exhaustion. Transmission: Person-to-person contact with infected person's lesions or scabs that may be found on the skin or mucosal surfaces. |
| 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). |

| DOCUMENT NAME | DOCUMENT NO. | DOCUMENT OWNER: | EFFECTIVE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | REVISION NO. | REVIEWED DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) | PAGE |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------|
| District Communicable Disease Plan | 161.1 | Health and Safety | 2025/09/02 | 13 | 2025/09/02 | 20 of 27 |

WHEN SHOULD I KEEP MY SICK CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL?

Things to consider if your child feels unwell:

1. The wellbeing of your child. Without proper rest, a child may have a hard time fighting an illness or be at risk for other illnesses.
2. The ability of your child to actively take part and learn at school.
3. The school staff cannot care for a sick child and give them the support that they may need.
4. The protection of other children.

Please keep your child home if they:

- Have a fever.
- Are too sick to take part in all normal school activities.
- Have a suspected or known communicable disease (i.e. strep throat, chicken pox, measles).
- Is vomiting or has diarrhea. It is recommended that students be symptom free at least 24 hours before returning to school.

Keep your child home until they are able to participate fully in normal school activities or as told by a health care provider.

Please let the school know your child's symptoms, as per the school's call back procedures.

If the school finds it necessary to send your child home because of illness, please make sure you have arranged an emergency contact if you are not available. Inform your school of these arrangements.

Where can I find more information?

- Health Link BC – By calling 8-1-1, you can speak to a health service navigator, who can help you find information and services, or connect you with a health professional. You can also find information online at <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca>
- Sneezes and Diseases – online at <https://sneezesdiseases.com/>
- BCCDC – online at [Schools \(bccdc.ca\)](https://schools.bccdc.ca)
- VCH – online at [Children, youth & schools - Vancouver Coastal Health \(vch.ca\)](https://vch.ca)

APPENDIX C: Managing Staff and Students who Develop Symptoms of Communicable Diseases While at School/Work

| Staff | Student |
|--|---|
| <p>IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS <u>AT WORK</u>:</p> <p>Symptomatic employees (fever, vomiting or diarrhea) must report their condition, leave the building/worksite immediately, and go home as soon as possible.</p> <p>If unable to leave the worksite immediately, staff must take the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The symptomatic employee should separate/isolate themselves into an area away from others (e.g., outside, in the designated health/isolation room). 2. Maintain a distance from all others. 3. If applicable, 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. 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 (available in health/isolation room). 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). 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. 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. | <p>IF A STUDENT DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS <u>AT SCHOOL</u>:</p> <p>Staff must take the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately separate the symptomatic/ill student from others in the designated health/isolation room. 2. Contact the student's parent/guardian to pick them up as soon as possible. 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). 4. If applicable, 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. 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. 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. 7. The building engineer/custodial staff will clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated/isolated and the student's classroom. <p>Parents/guardians must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.</p> |
| <p>Staff and students may return to work/school when their fever, vomiting or diarrhea has resolved and they are able to participate in their usual activities. A healthcare provider's note is not required for return.</p> | |

HOW TO CLEAN YOUR HANDS

Help us prevent the spread of infections



Use hand sanitizer

- Remove jewelry
- Apply enough product to keep hands moist for 15 seconds
- Cover all surfaces of the hands, fingers and thumbs
- Rub all surfaces of hands and wrists until completely dry
- Do not use paper towels to dry hands



Wash hands with soap and water

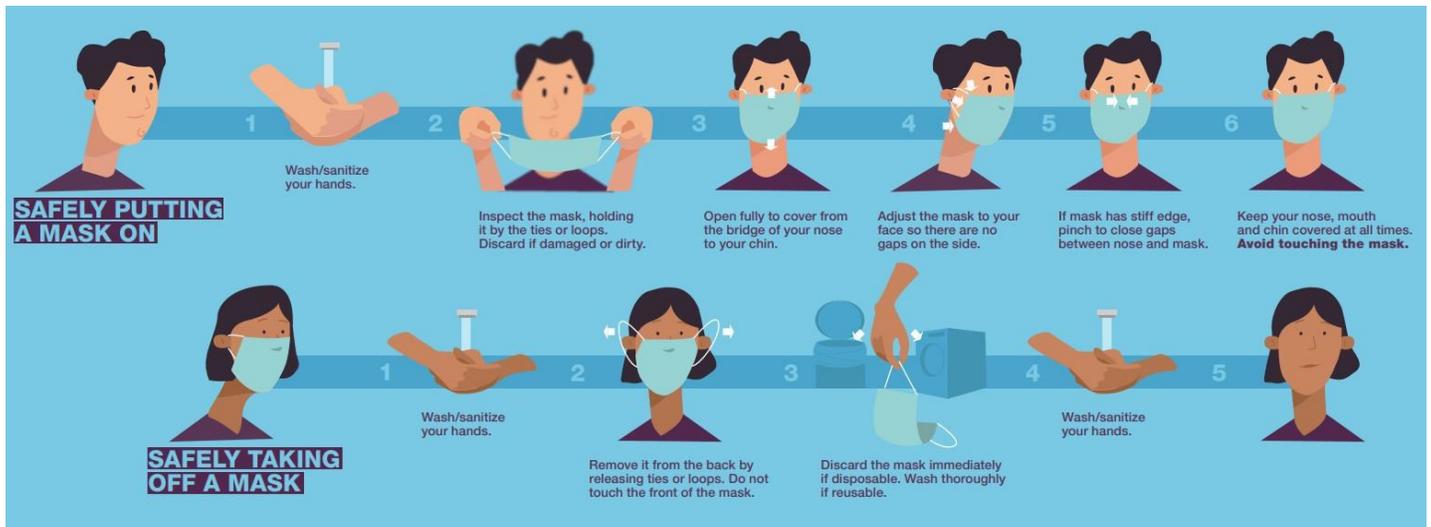
- Remove jewelry
- Wet hands with water
- Add soap to palms and rub hands together
- Create lather, covering all surfaces
- Rinse hands well under water
- Dry with a single use towel
- Use towel to turn off the tap

Use soap and water if hands are visibly soiled

2023.07.21

APPENDIX E: How to Wear a Face Mask

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



Source: Alberta Government

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



APPENDIX G: Administrator Protocols for Managing Communicable Disease Activity at School

BCCDC Guidance

Most communicable disease experienced by students and staff within school settings may be managed by the individual/family and through routine preventative measures, such as staying home from school until well enough to participate in regular activities. Resources are available to support management of routine communicable disease, including HealthLink BC, the BCCDC Guide to Common Childhood Diseases, the Sneezes and Disease website, and other school health resources hosted on health authority webpages (Vancouver Coastal Health Fraser Health; Interior Health; Island Health; Northern Health).

Public health may become directly involved if certain reportable diseases, such as measles, are identified where there are effective interventions available to prevent further spread and protect against severe disease. Additional time-limited public health measures may also be implemented at the discretion of the local Medical Health Officer or the Provincial Health Officer in response to broader risk of communicable disease transmission in the community.

School or administrators can contact public health if they have concerns about communicable disease transmission within the school setting and require additional support.

School or Administrators can contact Health and Safety at any time for support if they have concerns and should contact H&S if an illness seems higher than normal in a classroom (>10% of the students have it).

Communication and Protecting Personal Privacy.

Medical Health Officers play the lead role in determining, if, when, and how to communicate information regarding increased communicable disease activity within a school.

Public health has encouraged schools to routinely communicate to their school community the need to follow any recommended public health measures, practice health awareness, and to stay home when sick.

To protect personal privacy and to support accuracy, school should exercise caution in providing communicable disease notifications beyond when they are recommended by public health.

Functional Closures

A functional closure of a school is the temporary closure of a school determined by a school district or independent school authority due to a lack of staff to provide the required level of teaching, supervision, support and/or custodial to ensure the health and safety of students. This would likely be due to a high number of staff or certain employees away who are required for a school to function, and the inability to temporarily replace them. School districts (or independent schools) should notify their Medical Health Officer and the Ministry of Education and Child Care (erase@gov.bc.ca) when they are considering or implementing a functional closure.

Public Health Closure

A public health closure is the temporary closing of a school ordered by a Medical Health Officer when they determine it is necessary to prevent the excessive transmission of a communicable disease.

Revision Log

| REVISION DATE | CHANGE MADE | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / AUTHOR |
|---------------|---|---------------------------|
| Sept 2, 2025 | <p>Version 13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Page 3</i>: Link to B.C. Occupational Health and Safety Regulation updated to general page • <i>Page 3 & 18</i>: Link to BC Provincial Health Officer, Public Health Orders no longer exists and replaced by link to the Office of the Provincial Health Officer – Current Health Issues • <i>Page 4</i>: Link to Erase (Expect Respect & A Safe Education) website updated • <i>Page 6</i>: Sneezes + Diseases: A Resource Book for Caregivers & Parents has been replaced with link to Quick Guide to Common Childhood Diseases and link to HealthLinkBC files • <i>Page 6</i>: Updated link: When should I keep my sick child home from school? • <i>Page 6</i>: Updated link to VSB's Blood Borne Pathogen and Influenza Exposure Control Plans • <i>Page 10</i>: Updated link to WP-S17E Cleaning of High Contact Surfaces • <i>Page 11</i>: Updated link to WP-S17D Clean-Up of Bodily Fluids • <i>Page 15</i>: As of March 7, 2025, the BC Ministry of Health sunsetted the 2013 Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. and its related resources. Link replaced with the link to BC school food toolkit website | Tina Lau |