



Communicable Disease Prevention Plan (Formerly Covid-19 Policy)

Communicable diseases are illnesses that spread from one person to another or from an animal to a person, or from a surface or a food. Some examples are: Covid-19, flu, pertussis, and measles, among other illnesses.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses mostly found in animals. In humans, they can produce symptoms that are like the common cold and flu. Symptoms can range from mild to severe. It can be spread through droplet transmission. Infected persons can spread droplets up to two meters, for example when coughing or sneezing, but they do not stay suspended in the air due to their size. These droplets can infect other people via entry on surfaces like the eyes, nose, and mouth through transfer from hands. Droplet transmission is different from airborne transmission; airborne transmission allows microorganisms to be suspended in the air for long periods and inhaled and droplet transmission does not.

Training and Education

- Personnel are required to:
 - Review health and safety documents and all periodic updates.
 - Participate in any 'hands-on' training or education sessions as required to operationalize health and safety guidelines

Preventative Measures

Cleaning

- All used spaces are cleaned and disinfected daily by staff.
- Twice a day high touch surfaces such as entrance and exit handles, washroom faucet and toilet handles, and hallway seats and tables are cleaned and disinfection by staff.
- Readily accessible spray bottles with approved and properly mixed disinfectant, cleaning cloths and/or paper towels will be available for 'as needed' cleaning by any staff member.
- All supplies will be appropriately labelled.
- A safe storage area will be designated by the school for all 'as needed' cleaning supplies.
- Staff will ensure ongoing top-up of handwashing supplies and alcohol-based sanitizer.

Hygiene

- Good hygiene like measures taken to prevent the common cold or flu, and physical distancing are considered the most effective way to prevent COVID-19 illness, including:
- Washing hands frequently with soapy water for at least 20 seconds



- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- When coughing or sneezing:
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hand.
- Dispose of any tissues you have used as soon as possible in a lined wastebasket and wash your hands afterwards.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home if you feel unwell.
- Seek medical attention if you show signs of illness and follow containment procedures.
- Maintain a distance of 2 meters (6 feet) from anyone coughing or sneezing.
- Handwashing is required:
- Before leaving home, on arrival at work and before leaving work.
- After using the toilet.
- After breaks and sporting activities.
- Before eating any food, including snacks; including assisting others with eating.
- Before touching the face (nose, eyes, or mouth).
- Before administering medications.
- Before food preparation, handling, or serving.

Daily Health Self-Assessment

Anyone who wants to attend school must check themselves for symptoms of any sickness prior to going. Symptoms include:

- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Fever (> 37.5 °C using a thermometer)
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Headache
- Chills
- Feeling unwell/fatigue
- Aches and pains
- Diarrhea
- Nausea/vomiting
- Runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Loss of appetite

If you show any two signs of the listed symptoms, please stay home. Please use the [BC CDC COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) for guidance. Please notify your school of your absence.



School-Based Requirements

Hand Washing Facilities

- Soap and water are the preferred method of sanitizing hands. Hand sanitizers should only be used as an alternative to hand washing where sinks are not available.
- The maximum occupancy for student washrooms must be posted
- Where necessary, additional handwashing stations will be positioned throughout the school
- Handwashing instruction should take place at least once weekly with each group of students in Elementary
- Handwashing signage will be posted throughout the school

Contained area

- Principals will select a separate area that can be used for separating a sick child while awaiting parental/caregiver pick-up, that also allows for supervision.
- The selected area will, ideally, have access to a sink and handwashing supplies. As a minimum, it will be supplied with a hand sanitization dispenser and waste receptacle.
- The selected location shall not be the first aid room, so as to not impede the timely provision of school first aid services.

Water

- Bottles can be filled at the sink when needed, but students and staff are encouraged to bring the necessary water for the day with them.

Food Safety

- Students are not to share food or drinks
- Staff and students are encouraged to bring necessary food for the day and take related belongings home at the end of each day.
- Any food served will be done so in a way to minimize transmission, including the use of regular handwashing, distancing while serving food, and selection of products to limit handling.

Keyboards and Electronic devices

Keyboards and Electronic devices, Mobile phones, iPads and other frequently touched electronics like tablets, remotes, keyboards, mice and gaming consoles can carry germs. These electronics should be cleaned and disinfected when shared.

- Use an isopropyl based cleaning product to clean the device.
- Do this by spraying the cloth first with the solution and then wipe the piece of equipment until it is clean and the product has mostly evaporated away.
- Never spray directly onto the device.
- Do not immerse devices in liquids and do not use alternated cleaning products such as hydrogen peroxide or vinegar as they do not work and may damage screens.
- Turn off any electronics and unplug all connections before cleaning.
- Put electronic devices back on the shelf and plug back in.



Healthy Attendance

School or Site Attendees (Student, Staff or other)

- All attendants must complete a Daily Health Self-Assessment (see section 1.3)
- Should the potential attendee show any signs of illness they are not to attend the school or worksite.
- Any person with symptoms outlined on the Daily Health Self-Assessment is to complete the BC CDC self-assessment tool or consult with their medical practitioner to follow any recommendations for testing and/or isolation. If an individual's condition is determined not to be infectious, through a combination of testing and general symptom improvement, the individual may be able to return to their usual activities.

Sick Attendee Procedure

- Any staff member who begins to suffer symptoms throughout the workday should go home or seek medical attention immediately.
- Any child exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms must be separated from others and supervised in a separate waiting area until they are able to leave. Pick-up protocol is to be followed.
- In any shared areas such as classrooms, hallways and washrooms, any immediate hazards, such as bodily fluids must be cleaned following the Safe Work Procedure for Bodily fluids.
- High touch surfaces throughout the school will continue to be cleaned on the regular schedule.
- Access only needs to be restricted to the separate waiting area, which needs to be cleaned and disinfected prior to being used by a different user.
- The Principal will inform the Health and Safety Manager and or the Custodial Manager for cleaning.

Pick up Protocol

- Parents/caregivers must be notified and advised to pick-up the student immediately.
- Should any child present with symptoms, they will be sent home.
- Designated parent or caregiver will be contacted for pick up for students aged 12 years or younger, should they show symptoms.
- Schools will ensure the 'pick up' individual is formally listed in each child's file for safe release.
- When the parent or caregiver arrives to pick up their child, they will phone the school indicating they are in the parking lot.
- The student will be brought out to the parent or caregiver.

Physical Distancing

On the Bus

- When Covid-19 is prevalent in the community, we will not be using any bus services.



Within the Building

- Implement traffic flow patterns in public spaces by using physically distancing signage.

Close Personal Care

- All staff and students must endeavour to maintain Physical Distancing at all times.
- While people are advised to stay home, or remove themselves when ill, we still have to be prepared to provide first aid in the event there is an emergency or injury during the departure of an ill individual. First-aid attendants have infection control measures built into their training and procedures. However, should the attendant find themselves in a situation where they need to provide care for an individual with flu-like symptoms they should take extra precautions. They may do this by guiding and directing the individual themselves to self-administer care. Should this not be feasible and they determine a need to provide close contact care, they proceed as if all risks are present and should protect themselves with appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). If the tasks present the risk of COVID droplet transmission, an N95 respirator and gloves are minimal PPE required; goggles are to be used if droplets are able to splash into the individual's eyes.
- Where other forms of close contact are required, no additional PPE is required, above that used normally for universal precaution unless an individual is presenting with flu-like symptoms. Should the individual present with flu-like symptoms, gloves and an N95 respirator are minimal PPE required; goggles are to be used if droplets are able to splash into the individual's eyes.

Outdoor Play Activities

- Teachers should endeavour to maximize outdoor play/instruction.
- Physical distancing is encouraged between teachers and children.
- Playground equipment (i.e.: balls, sand toys, skipping ropes etc.) should be disinfected at the end of each day.

Playgrounds

As the playground is not cleaned and disinfected, it is important to use the following precautions:

- Hand washing, in soapy water for 20 seconds is required immediately before and after playground use. Hand sanitizer can be used as an alternative.
- Physical distancing is encouraged between the caregiver(s) and children

How to Support Physical Distancing

- Avoiding close greetings like hugs or handshakes.
- Help younger children learn about physical distancing by creating games. For example:
 - use hula hoops to visually show space.
 - have children spread their arms side to side and spin around slowly trying not to touch their friends.



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- Take children outside more often, perhaps breaking children into smaller groups to maintain a degree of distance.
 - Set up regular outside learning activities such as snack time, arts and craft time.
- Increase the space between children during activities such as snack/lunch (e.g., move or separate tables, move chairs farther apart).
- When children want to use the same area/activity, redirect some children to another area.
- Reinforce and remind of the rule of 'hands to yourself'.
- Provide reassurance, good listening and maintain routines.
- Maintain familiar activities and routines, as possible, as it can reinforce the sense of security for children. At the same time, build in those physical distancing strategies into your learning activities.