



New Westminister School District (#40)

Communicable Disease Plan

Version 5.0

September 8, 2023

Please note: This plan will be modified as required to align with the most current health and safety requirements and Ministry guidelines.

- Health awareness – everyone should do a health check to ensure they are not

If a Student Develops Any New Symptoms of Illness At School	If a Staff Member Develops Any New Symptoms of Illness At School/Work
<p>Staff must take the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately separate the symptomatic student in a supervised area away from others. 2. Contact the student’s parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible. 3. Where possible, maintain a 2-metre distance from the ill student. If not possible, staff can choose to wear a non- medical mask or face covering if available and tolerated, or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth. 4. Provide the student with a non-medical mask they may choose to wear 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 you do, practice diligent hand-hygiene. 6. Once the student is picked up, practice diligent hand-hygiene. 7. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated and any areas recently used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas). <p>Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.</p>	<p>Staff should go home as soon as possible.</p> <p>If unable to leave immediately:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Symptomatic staff should separate themselves in an area away from others. 2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. 3. Use a mask they choose to wear to cover their nose and mouth while they wait to be picked up. <p>Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the staff member was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).</p> <p>Staff attending a COVID-19 Vaccination appointment should log the absence accordingly in Atrieve™ identifying the absence as “COVID Vaccination” which is a paid leave of up to 3 hours.</p>

2.2 Respiratory Etiquette

- Students and staff should:
 - Cough or sneeze into their elbow sleeve or a tissue, throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand-hygiene.
 - Refrain from touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unwashed utensils, cigarettes, or vaping devices.
- Parents and staff can teach and reinforce these practices among students.
 - f* Usual “FOODSAFE” requirements remain where applicable.
- Fundraisers
 - Schools can continue to offer fundraisers. They should align with the [Guidelines for Food and beverage Sales in B.C. Schools](#).

2.7 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Although personal protective equipment is the lowest level on the hierarchy of Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures, it can provide an additional layer of protection when more effective measures are not feasible. Masks and face coverings (masks) have a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19. They provide some protection to the wearer and to those around them.

Masks and Face Coverings

- Masks are no longer required to be worn in schools. The decision to wear a mask beyond when it is recommended by public health is a personal one, based on individual preference. Some students and staff may choose to continue to wear a non-medical mask or face covering throughout the day or for certain activities.
- Masks can also be worn when a staff member or student becomes ill while in a school and has not yet left the school.

Schools and school districts will have non-medical masks available for staff and students, including anyone who becomes sick while at school. These masks include the masks found in the classroom emergency kits, and must be reported to the school administrator to replenish.

3.0 Work Environment/School Preparation

General Ventilation and Air Circulation

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

School districts have ensured that heating, ventilation

4.0 Cleaning & Disinfection Protocols

4.1 Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Requirements

- Staff are expected to be familiar with the hazards and safety controls of the chemicals used at work. This has been completed through their COVID-19 safety orientation.
- All disinfectants, detergents, hand sanitizers must be safely stored out of reach of students.
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all cleaning products are available in our Staff Portal and are available at product storage sites.
- SD 40 Staff who are using custodial products must review the product SDS before they use it for the following information but not limited to:
 - What to do in case of exposure and,
 - What PPE is required for use.
- All chemicals must be properly labelled in accordance with WHMIS requirements and adhere to the guidelines from BCCDC: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf.

4.2 Cleaning Schedules

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. Commercial disinfectant products procured adhere to Health Canada's hard-

[disinfectants for use against coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING FREQUENCY

The following frequency guidelines should be adhered to when cleaning and disinfecting:

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises at least once in a 24-hour period. This includes items that only a single student uses, like an individual desk.
- In addition to the cleaning and disinfecting of the premises, cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces at least once in 24 hours. (See [Frequently Touched Surfaces](#) section below for examples of frequently touched surfaces.)
- Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty.
- Empty garbage containers daily.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING BODILY FLUIDS

Follow these procedures when cleaning and disinfecting bodily fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine):

- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning blood or body fluids.
- Wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves.
- Follow regular health and safety procedure and regularly used PPE (e.g., gloves, Kevlar sleeves) for blood and bodily fluids (e.g., toileting, spitting, biting).

9.0 Vaccination

- Vaccinations remain the primary layer of protection that has limited severe health outcomes from COVID-19. As of March 10, 2022, 93.3% (4,322,690) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 90.7% (4,204,895) received their second dose and 55.7% (2,580,562) have received a third dose.
- The BCDC strongly recommends adults interacting with children to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 as it protects against serious illness, including from the Omicron variant.
- For full protection, it is recommended that everyone get the Fall 2023 booster shot when made available to your age group.
- Every school should designate a space for public health nurses or other qualified personnel to carry out their duties, including immunizations, when needed.
- Ages 6 months and older are now eligible for COVID-19 Vaccination.

9.1 Facility Rentals

- Facility rentals must additionally follow all public health orders currently in effect and it is the responsibility of the event organizer to ensure these orders are followed.

- The details of all public health orders and the latest requirements must be verified and enforced by the event organizer. Check: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions> for the latest guidance.
- Facility rentals are allowed if they follow the above guidance.
- Where possible, limit building access to only those areas required for the purpose of the activity only.

Appendix A – Safe Work Procedures COVID-19

COVID-19 Facts

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a new strain that was discovered in 2019 and has not been previously identified in humans. Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people.

The BC Center for Disease Control has published the following information in its May 19, 2020 COVID-19: Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings. Based on the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in B.C., and the fact that children are at a much lower risk of developing COVID-19, K-12 schools in British Columbia should begin increasing the number of students receiving in-class instruction within the school environment while supporting the health and safety of children and adults.

Respiratory Etiquette

- Covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing

If No Sink Is Available

- Use waterless antiseptic agents. For COVID-19, a minimum of 60% alcohol agent is required.
- If hands are soiled with visible contamination, they must first be washed with soap and water.

Appendix Q: Ventilation

Appendix R: Hand Cleaning Instructions to Prevent

