



# SD50 (Haida Gwaii) Communicable Disease Prevention Guidelines – Covid-19

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## Supportive School Environments

Schools can support students to practice personal preventive measures by:

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

Staff should utilize positive and inclusive approaches to engage students in preventive practices and should not employ measures that are punitive or stigmatizing in nature.

Staff should also utilize a trauma-informed lens when planning school activities (e.g. gatherings and events) and interacting with other staff and students, including considerations around respecting others personal space.

Students and staff may choose to wear masks, face shields or other personal protective equipment in schools beyond the required circumstances outlined in this document and those choices must be respected.

## Physical Distancing and Space Arrangement

Although public health no longer recommends learning groups and physical distancing of 2M communicable disease measures for the K-12 setting, there are a number of strategies that schools can consider to help create space between people and to support students and staff in returning to school using a trauma-informed approach:

- Remind students and staff about respecting others personal space. Use visual supports, signage, prompts, video modelling, etc. as necessary.
- Use available space to spread people out, both in learning environments and for gatherings and events, where possible.
- Implement strategies that prevent crowding at pick-up and drop-off times.
  - Focus on entry and exit areas, and other places where people may gather or crowd.
- Stagger recess/snack, lunch and class transition times to provide a greater amount of space for everyone.
- Take students outside more often, where and when possible.
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways and around lockers, to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.
  - Use floor markings and posters to address traffic flow throughout the school. This may include one-way hallways and designated entrance and exit doors. It is important not to reduce the number of exits and ensure the fire code is adhered to.

## STAFF ONLY SPACES

Experience to date underscores the importance of COVID-19 prevention among adults, as well as students, in the school setting. The guidelines in this document should be used to determine what measures should be in place within staff-only spaces within a school (e.g. break rooms, school office). WorkSafeBC guidance for workplaces should be used to determine what measures should be in place for non-school spaces operated by a school district or independent school authority (e.g. board/authority offices, maintenance facilities, etc.).

In addition, K-12 schools and other worksites should implement the following strategies:

- Utilize floor markings and signage to direct traffic flow and prevent crowding (e.g. in the break room, by the photocopier, etc.).
- For gatherings (e.g. meetings, pro-d, etc.), respect room occupancy limits, use available space to spread people out, and consider virtual options. Gatherings must also occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders and any related WorkSafe BC guidance.

See the [Personal Protective Equipment](#) section for more information on mask requirements for staff.

## SCHOOL GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

School gatherings and events (including inter-school events) can occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders.

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

- Respecting student and staff comfort levels regarding personal space;
- Using space available to spread people out as much as possible, respecting room occupancy limits, and ensuring enough space is available to prevent involuntarily physical contact between attendees (i.e. overcrowding); and
- Gradual transitions to larger gatherings (e.g. school-wide assemblies), including starting with virtual or smaller in-person options, shorter in-person sessions, etc.
- Examinations or assessments are not considered school gatherings; however, they must still be delivered in accordance with the health and safety guidelines outlined in this document.
- For school gatherings and events that bring together multiple classes or other groupings of students (e.g., school assemblies, multiple classes doing a single activity) from the same school (but members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers are not attending), there is not a specific capacity limit.
- For school extracurricular and social gatherings and events that bring together members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers (e.g., an arts club performance, community fair), or that occur between schools (e.g., a music festival, a sports game or tournament), indoor capacity should not exceed 50 people or 50% of operating capacity (whichever is greater).
  - For indoor spaces without a defined operating capacity, schools should determine a capacity limit that is at most half the number of individuals that would be within the space for that activity or event if prevention measures weren't in place.

- Spectators (e.g., parents, caregivers, peers), may be present for gatherings and events (e.g., attend performance club theatre productions, inter-school sports games and tournaments, etc.) within capacity limits.
- Schools should not implement proof of vaccination requirements for school-led gatherings and events.

## PERSONAL ITEMS

Staff and students can continue to bring personal items to school, but they should be encouraged to not share items that come in contact with the mouth (e.g. food, drinks, unwashed utensils, cigarettes, vaping devices, wind instruments).

Students can continue to use their 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. Schools should implement strategies to manage the flow of students around lockers to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.

## Supporting Students With Disabilities/Diverse Abilities

### EXPECTATIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS

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

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

### GUIDELINES FOR STAFF WORKING WITH STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES/ DIVERSE ABILITIES WHERE PHYSICAL CONTACT MAY BE REQUIRED

Supporting students with disabilities/diverse abilities may require staff providing support services to be in close physical proximity or in physical contact with a student.

When staff are working with a student indoors, and the service cannot be provided from behind a barrier, staff are required to wear a non-medical mask, a face covering or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield). Additional personal protective equipment is not required beyond that used as part of the personal care routine normally encountered in their regular course of work (e.g., gloves for toileting).

When working with students where seeing facial expressions and/or lip movement is important, and the service cannot be provided from behind a barrier, options include having the staff member wear a mask with a transparent section to enable visualization of the mouth. More information on masks and face coverings is available on the [BCCDC website](#).

- Students in Kindergarten to grade 12 are also required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering when receiving services indoors and a barrier is not present.
- In addition to a non-medical mask, those providing health or education services that require being in close proximity to a student should follow their standard risk assessment methods

to determine what PPE is needed for general communicable disease prevention in accordance with routine practices.

## Student Transportation

### BUSES

The following strategies are recommended for student transportation on buses:

- Buses used for transporting students should be cleaned and disinfected according to the guidance provided in the [Cleaning and Disinfecting](#) section of this document.
- Bus drivers should clean their hands often, including before and after completing trips. Drivers are encouraged to regularly use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol during trips.
- Bus drivers are required to wear a non-medical mask, a face covering or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask must be worn in addition to the face shield) on school buses except while driving.
- See the [Supporting Students with Disabilities/Diverse Abilities](#) section for more information on safety measures when staff are required to be in physical contact with students.
- Students in Kindergarten to grade 12 are required to wear non-medical mask or face coverings when they are on the bus.
- Non-medical masks or face coverings should be put on before loading.
- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school (see the [Daily Health Check](#) section for more information). If a child is sick, they must not take the bus or go to school.
- Students should clean their hands before and after taking the bus.
- Spread passengers out if empty seats are available.
- Open windows when the weather permits.
- Bus drivers and students should be encouraged to practice [respiratory etiquette](#) while on the bus.

### CARPOOLING

Schools should share the following guidance with staff and families regarding carpooling arrangements (personal or school-related):

- Spread out vehicle occupants as much as possible.
- Travel with the same people whenever possible.
- Set the in fresh outside air, and do not recirculate the air.
- Open windows when the weather allows.
- Clean hands before and after trips.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly.

For carpooling related to school activities, students, staff and other adults must follow the mask requirements outlined in the [Personal Protective Equipment](#) section. For personal carpooling, as per public health recommendations, school-aged children and adults are encouraged to wear masks while carpooling (masks are not suggested if carpooling with members of the same household).

## OTHER METHODS OF TRANSPORTATION

For students, staff and visitors taking mass transit (e.g. municipal buses, SkyTrain, ferries, etc.), hand hygiene should be practiced before and after trips. Riders should follow any other safety guidance (including mask guidance) issued by the relevant transit authority. Schools should continue to encourage methods of active transportation (e.g. walking, biking, skateboarding, etc.) wherever possible due to the overall health benefits.

## Cleaning and Disinfecting

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces.

- Always wash hands before and after handling shared objects.
- Items and surfaces that children have placed in their mouths or that have been in contact with bodily fluids should be cleaned as soon as possible and between uses by different children.
- Dishwasher-safe items can be cleaned and disinfected in a dishwasher with a hot rinse cycle.

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTING FREQUENCY

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

- General cleaning of the premises, and cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, at least once in a 24-hour period. (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.

The requirements for daily cleaning and disinfecting outlined above do not apply to spaces/equipment that are not being used by students, staff or visitors. Many schools and districts have implemented procedures such as sign-in sheets posted next to room entrances that help custodial staff focus cleaning/disinfecting activities on those spaces that have been utilized by staff or students.

## FREQUENTLY TOUCHED SURFACES

Frequently touched surfaces include:

- Items used by larger numbers of students and staff, including doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, water fountains, faucet handles, toilet handles.
- Limiting access to water fountains is no longer recommended. Hand hygiene should be practiced before and after use. Schools should ensure non-drinkable (non-potable) water sources are not used for drinking water, and that these sources are labelled as such (Part 4 of OHS Regulation).
- School communicable disease plans should not include restricting access to water, washrooms or other spaces that support student learning and well-being (e.g. gymnasiums, libraries, support rooms, etc.). Schools should return to full operation of all spaces in alignment with the protocols outlined in this document.
- Shared equipment (e.g. computer keyboards and tablets, glassware and testing equipment

for science labs, kitchen equipment for culinary programs, sewing machines and sewing equipment for home economic programs, PE/sports equipment, music equipment, etc.)

- Appliances (staff and students can share the use of appliances and other objects, but treat items like microwaves, refrigerators, coffee pots, photocopiers or laminators as frequently touched surfaces)
- Service counters (e.g., office service window, library circulation desk)

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, etc.) can be used, if hand hygiene is practiced before and after use. Carpets and rugs (e.g. in Kindergarten and StrongStart classes) can also be used.

There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. Laminated or glossy paper-based products (e.g. children's books or magazines) and items with plastic covers (e.g. DVDs) can be contaminated if handled by a person with COVID-19; however, the risk is low. There is no need for these items to be cleaned and disinfected or quarantined for any period of time before or after use.

## Visitor Access/Community Use

- Schools can leave front doors unlocked for visitor access.
- Visitors are no longer limited to those supporting activities of direct benefit to student learning and wellbeing.
- Schools are responsible for ensuring that visitors are aware of communicable disease protocols and requirements, and have completed a daily health check, prior to entering the school.
  - Information on communicable disease protocols and requirements for visitors should be posted by the entrance to the school, on the school website and included in communications to students and families.
- Schools must have a sign in/sign out process in place for all visitors and staff who are not typically onsite (e.g. TTOCs, itinerant teachers/specialists, maintenance or IT personnel, district/authority administrators).
- All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school. See the [Personal Protective Equipment](#) section for more information, including exceptions to mask requirements for visitors.
- Parents/caregivers and other visitors should respect others' personal space while on school grounds, including outside.
- Use must occur in line with those activities permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders
- Diligent hand hygiene
- Respiratory etiquette
- Ensuring participants stay home if they are feeling ill
- Where possible, limiting building access to only those areas required for the purpose of the activity

Community users are responsible for collecting names and contact information of participants to support contact tracing activities by the local health authority.

# Illness & Self-Assessment Policies and Protocols

## DAILY HEALTH CHECK

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

- Parents and caregivers should assess their children daily for illness before sending them to school.
  - Parents/caregivers and students can utilize the provincial [K-12 Health Check app](#) for daily assessment of symptoms.
- Staff and other adults should complete a daily health check prior to entering the school.
- If a student, staff or other adult is sick, they must not enter the school.

## SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

School districts and independent school authorities must develop local protocols for schools and adult-only worksites/offices that:

- Ensure staff and other adults (e.g. parents, caregivers, visitors) entering the school/worksites are aware of their responsibility to complete a daily health check prior to entering the school/worksites (e.g. emails/letters to parents and staff, orientation video, signage on doors) and to stay home if they are sick.
- Clearly communicate with parents/caregivers their responsibility to complete a daily health check with their child, and keep them home from school if they are sick.
- Establish procedures for students and staff who become sick while at school/work to be sent home as soon as possible.

Some students or staff may not be able to be picked up immediately. As such, schools should have a space available where the student or staff can wait comfortably and is separated from others (at least 2M), and provide the student or staff with a non-medical facemask if they don't have one (unless they are experiencing gastrointestinal symptoms and are at risk of vomiting.)

Schools must provide supervision for younger children. Supervising staff should wear a non-medical mask and face shield if they are unable to maintain physical distance, avoid touching bodily fluids as much as possible, and practice diligent hand hygiene.

- Staff responsible for facility cleaning should clean and disinfect the surfaces/equipment which the person's bodily fluids may have been in contact with while they were ill (e.g. their desk in a classroom, the bathroom stall they used, etc.) prior to the surfaces/equipment being used by others. Cleaning/disinfecting the entire room the person was in (a "terminal" clean) is not required in these circumstances.
- Establish procedures that allow for students and staff to return to school/work in line with the guidance in the [Staying Home, Self-Isolation and Symptoms](#) section.
  - This is to ensure students and staff who are not sick are not kept out of school/away from work longer than necessary.

Schools and districts should not require a health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor's note) to

confirm the health status of any individual, beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual practices.

## STAYING HOME, SELF-ISOLATION AND SYMPTOMS

### Stay Home When Required to Self-Isolate

Students, staff or other adults must stay home if they are required to self-isolate.

Additional information on self-isolation requirements and support is available from [BCCDC](#).

### Symptoms of Illness and Return to School

Students, staff or other adults should stay at home when sick, as this is one of the most important ways to reduce the introduction to and the spread of COVID-19 in schools. The following resources provide guidance regarding specific symptoms of illness:

- Parents/caregivers and students can use the [K-12 Health Check app](#).
- Staff and other adults can refer to BCCDC's "[When to get tested for COVID-19](#)".
- Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online [Self-Assessment Tool](#), call 8-1-1 or their health care provider.

When a staff, student or other adult can return to school depends on the type of symptoms they experienced (as indicated in the [K-12 Health Check app](#) and BCCDC [When to get tested for COVID-19](#) resource).

Students and staff who experience symptoms consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g. seasonal allergies) can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. They do not require re-assessment by a health-care provider and should not be required to provide a health-care provider note. If they experience any new or unexplained symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.

Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household develops new symptoms of illness, provided the student/staff has no symptoms themselves. If the household member tests positive for COVID-19, public health will advise the asymptomatic student/staff on self-isolation and when they may return to school.

## Hand Hygiene

Rigorous hand-washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness (antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19). Follow these guidelines to ensure effective hand hygiene in schools:

- Practice diligent hand hygiene by washing hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds (temperature does not change the effectiveness of washing hands with plain soap and water).
- Facilitate regular opportunities for staff and students to practice hand hygiene:
  - Use portable hand-washing sites and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers containing at least 60% alcohol, where sinks are not available.
  - Hand-washing should be encouraged upon school entry and before/after breaks and eating, using washroom and using frequently touched shared equipment.
- Promote the importance of diligent hand hygiene to staff and students regularly.



- Ensure hand-washing supplies are always well stocked including soap, paper towels and where appropriate, alcohol-based hand rub with a minimum of 60% alcohol.
- Staff should assist younger students with hand hygiene as needed.
- Students may bring their own sanitizer or plain soap if they are on the list authorized by Health Canada or have a medical condition that requires specialized soaps.
- If hands are visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand rub may not be effective at eliminating microbes. Soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly dirty. If it is not available, use an alcohol-based handwipe followed by alcohol-based hand rub.

## Respiratory Etiquette

Students and staff should:

- Cough and sneeze into their elbow, sleeve, or a tissue.
- Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Personal protective equipment (including masks) can provide an additional layer of protection. Non-medical masks and face coverings (hereafter referred to collectively as “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.
- In the event a regional or provincial public health recommendation or Order requires stricter non-medical mask use than is outlined in this document, that recommendation or Order should be followed.
- Those wearing masks should still continue to respect others personal space.
- Masks should not be used in place of the other safety measures detailed in this document.

### K-12 STAFF:

All K-12 staff are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a mask must be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses.

Supporting students with complex behaviours, medical complexities or receiving delegated care may require staff providing health services or other health care providers to be in close physical proximity or in physical contact with a medically complex or immune suppressed student.

- People providing these services in schools must wear a mask (medical or non-medical) when providing services and the service cannot be provided from behind a physical barrier. Additional PPE over and above that needed for routine practices and the use of a medical or non-medical mask is not necessary.
- Parents and caregivers of children who are considered at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 are encouraged to consult with their health care provider to determine their child’s level of risk.

### K-12 STUDENTS:

All students in Kindergarten to grade 12 are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask must be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school

buses.

Staff should utilize positive and inclusive approaches to engage students in the use of masks, and should not employ measures that are punitive or stigmatizing in nature.

#### VISITORS:

All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school.

#### EXCEPTIONS FOR STAFF, STUDENTS AND VISITORS:

The guidance outlined above regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstances:

- to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
- to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- if the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
- if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
- if a person is eating or drinking;
- if a person is behind a barrier; or
- while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important.

While the mask requirements outlined in this document specifically apply to K-12 schools, public health recommends that staff and visitors at non-school sites (e.g., administrative offices, maintenance facilities, etc.) wear masks in indoor common/shared spaces if they are not fully vaccinated. Staff and visitors at non-school sites must also adhere to any regional or provincial public health recommendations or orders for workplaces requiring increased mask use.

Schools must not require a health care provider note (i.e. a doctor's note) to confirm if staff, students or visitors cannot wear a mask.

No student should be prevented from attending or fully participating at school if they do not wear a mask.

## General Ventilation and Air Circulation

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

School districts and independent school authorities should regularly maintain HVAC systems for proper operation and ensure that:

- schools with recycled/recirculated air systems upgrade their current filters to a minimum MERV 13 filter or higher if possible; and

- schools with fresh air intake systems increase their average air exchanges as detailed on the [ASHRAE](#) website and the [Rocky Point Engineering Ltd](#) website.

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

In order to enhance school ventilation, schools should consider:

- moving activities outdoors when possible (for example, lunch, classes, physical activity) and considering moving classrooms outside when space and weather permit
- increasing air exchanges by adjusting the HVAC system
- managing air distribution through building automation control systems
- where possible, opening windows if weather permits and HVAC system function will not be negatively impacted

## Curriculum, Programs and Activities

### FOOD/CULINARY PROGRAMS

Schools can continue to include food preparation as part of learning programs for students. The following guidelines should be applied:

#### Food Safety

- In the case of food and culinary programs, where food is prepared as part of learning and is consumed by the students who prepared it, the following health and safety measures should apply:
  - Continue to follow normal food safety measures and requirements
  - Implement the cleaning and disinfecting measures outlined in the [Cleaning and Disinfecting](#) section of this document
- [FOODSAFE](#) Level 1 covers important food safety and worker safety information including foodborne illness, receiving and storing food, preparing food, serving food, and cleaning and sanitizing. It is a helpful resource for those seeking education and training on food safety practices.

#### Hand Hygiene and Cleaning Protocols

- Practice diligent hand hygiene by washing hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds. (Antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19). Students and staff should wash their hands in alignment with normal food safety measures and requirements.
- Refer to the [Cleaning and Disinfecting](#) section for cleaning/disinfecting protocols.
- For laundry, follow the instructions provided in the [Cleaning and Disinfecting](#) section of these guidelines.

### FOOD SERVICES

Schools can continue to provide food services, including for sale.

- If food service is provided in schools that is regulated under the Food Premises Regulation, 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.).

For food contact surfaces, schools should ensure any sanitizers or disinfectants used are approved for use in a food service application and are appropriate for use against COVID-19. These may be different than the products noted in this document for general cleaning and disinfection. Additional information is available on the [BCCDC](#) website.

Schools can continue to accept food donations to support learning and the delivery of meal programs, breakfast clubs and other food access initiatives.

Schools should continue to emphasize that food and beverages should not be shared. School meal programs should follow regular operating practices.

## FUNDRAISERS

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

## MUSIC PROGRAMS

- K-12 staff and students in Kindergarten to grade 12 must wear masks when indoor and a barrier is not present. Masks can be temporarily removed while engaging in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument), but must be worn while singing.
- Shared equipment should be cleaned and disinfected as per [Cleaning and Disinfecting guidelines](#) and students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after music equipment use.
  - Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g. instrument mouth pieces) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses.
  - The B.C. Music Educators' Association and the Coalition for Music Education in B.C. have also developed [Guidance for Music Classes in BC During COVID-19](#). In the case of any discrepancy in guidance, schools and school districts are expected to follow the Ministry of Education guidelines outlined in this document.

## SHARED OFFICE SPACE FOR STAFF

- The guidelines in this document should be used to determine what measures should be in place within staff-only spaces within a school (e.g. break rooms, school office).
- [WorkSafeBC guidance for work place](#) should be used to determine what measures should be in place for non-school spaces operated by a school district or independent school authority (e.g. board/authority offices, maintenance facilities, etc.).
- See the [Personal Protective Equipment](#) section for more information on mask requirements for staff.

## PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (PHE)/OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

- Spread out students and staff within available space, and encourage outdoor activities and programs, as much as possible.

- K-12 staff and students in Kindergarten to grade 12 are required to wear masks during PHE/outdoor program classes when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.
  - Students are not required to wear masks during high-intensity physical activities (e.g. stationary bike, weightlifting, basketball, soccer); mask use during these activities is left to students' personal choice. Staff are encouraged to move high-intensity physical activities outdoors whenever possible.
  - For low intensity activities (e.g. yoga, walking), students are required to wear masks when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.
- Shared equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned and disinfected as per the guidelines in the [Cleaning and Disinfecting](#) section of this document.
  - Students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment (e.g. before and after a sports game using a shared ball), as well as proper [respiratory etiquette](#).
  - Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g. water bottles) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses.

## PLAYGROUNDS

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

- Ensure appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play
- Attempt to minimize unintentional physical contact between students
- Sand and water can be used for play if children wash their hands before and after play. COVID-19 does not survive well on surfaces, other than hard surfaces. There is no evidence showing that the virus survives on sand, in water or on playdough.

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES

- Laminated or glossy paper-based products (e.g. books, magazines, worksheets, etc.) and items with plastic covers (e.g. DVDs) are low risk items. Regular book browsing and circulation processes can occur as normal. There is no need to clean, disinfect or quarantine these items for any period of time.
- For information on cleaning, including technological devices, see the guidelines in the [Cleaning and Disinfecting](#) section.

## SCHOOLSPO RTS

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

- Requirements of relevant local, regional and provincial public health recommendations and Orders for community gatherings and events.
- Masks are worn by K-12 students, staff and other adults when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.
  - Students are not required to wear masks during high-intensity sport activities (e.g. stationary bike, weightlifting, basketball, soccer); mask use during these activities is

left to student's personal choice. Staff are encouraged to move high-intensity sport activities outdoors whenever possible.

- For low intensity sport activities (e.g. stretching, golf), students are required to wear masks when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.
- Use all available space to spread students and staff out as much as possible.

## EXTRACURRICULAR SPORTS TOURNAMENTS

Extracurricular sports tournaments can resume. Sports tournaments are a single or multi-day gathering of three or more sports teams, who come together outside regular league play for the purpose of teams playing against multiple other teams, but does not include:

- A gathering where team members compete on an individual basis against members of other teams, or
- A gathering where the result will decide if a team will advance to play in a national or international competition.
- Indoor capacity should not exceed 50 people or 50% of operating capacity (whichever is greater).
  - For indoor spaces without a defined operating capacity, schools should determine a capacity limit that is at most half the number of individuals that would be within the space for that activity or event if prevention measures weren't in place.
- Spectators (e.g., parents, caregivers, peers), may be present for gatherings and events (e.g., attend performance club theatre productions, inter-school sports games and tournaments, etc.) within capacity limits.
- Schools should not implement proof of vaccination requirements for school-led gatherings and events.

Shared equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned and disinfected as per the guidelines in the [Cleaning and Disinfecting](#) section of this document.

- Students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment (e.g. before and after a sports game using a shared ball), as well as proper [respiratory etiquette](#).
- Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g. water bottles) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses. Sport activities should be held outside whenever possible.

## Extracurricular Activities

Intra- and inter-school extracurricular activities and special interest clubs can occur in alignment with the guidelines in this document and requirements of relevant local, regional and provincial public health recommendations and Orders for community gatherings and events.