



Quesnel School District (28) COVID-19 Communicable Disease Health and Safety Plan

**This document builds upon the
[Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)*

Personal Measures

Daily Health Checks

Staff, parents and students will be regularly reminded of their responsibilities to complete a Daily Health Check and are provided with resources on how to complete one (e.g., the [K-12 Health Check](#) app).

The daily sign in will confirm the staff/visitors completion of the Health Check.

- Staff will be reminded weekly of responsibility to complete the Health Check daily

Stay Home When Sick / What To Do When Sick

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.

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.

Symptoms Develop at School

Some students or staff may not be able to be picked up immediately. Schools will 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 mask if they do not have one.

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.

Returning to School After Illness

When a staff member, 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, if a COVID-19 test is recommended, and the type of illness they had (e.g. COVID-19 or other illness). See [Appendix A COVID-19 Symptoms, Testing & Return to School](#) for more information regarding what to do when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

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 & Respiratory Etiquette

Hand cleaning facilities are available and accessible throughout the school and are well maintained.

Diligent hand hygiene will be promoted to staff and students regularly.

When Student Should Perform Hand Hygiene:	When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ When they arrive at school.▪ Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).▪ Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk or locker).▪ Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes with shared equipment.▪ After using the toilet.▪ After sneezing or coughing into hands.▪ Whenever hands are visibly dirty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ When they arrive at school.▪ Before and after any breaks (e.g. recess, lunch).▪ Before and after eating and drinking.▪ Before and after handling food or assisting students with eating.▪ Before and after giving medication to a student or self.▪ After using the toilet.▪ After contact with body fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood).▪ After cleaning tasks.▪ After removing gloves.▪ After handling garbage.▪ Whenever hands are visibly dirty.

Personal Protective Equipment

Masks

Staff, adult volunteers, visitors, and students in Grade 4 and higher will wear a non-medical mask or face covering (a “mask”) according to the guidelines or applicable public health orders/recommendations. If wearing a face shield a mask is also required to be worn.

Grade K-3 students will wear masks based on their personal or family/caregivers’ choice. Masks are encouraged for K-3 students.

Masks are available for those who have forgotten theirs.

Exceptions to the mask requirements for staff, students and visitor can be found in the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings – Updated August 24, 2021](#) on page 20.

Supportive School Environments

Personal Space

Strategies are in place to encourage staff and students to consider and respect others personal space. Personal space is the distance from which a person feels comfortable being next to another person. Physical distancing of 2M is no longer a requirement.

Public Health Measures

Attendance & Record Keeping

Staff and visitor sign in and confirmation of completion of the daily health check is required at all sites. A list of the date, names and contact information for all visitors and staff who entered the school will be kept for 45 days.

Accurate class and bus lists will be maintained and kept for at least 45 days.

Environmental Measures

Ventilation and Air Exchange

All HVAC systems are operated and maintained as per standards and specifications, and are working properly. Filters have been upgraded and will be regularly monitored and replaced.

Use of portable air conditioners and fans in unventilated spaces with doors and windows closed should be avoided.

Risk mitigation strategies are identified for excessive heat events or times of poor air quality.

Administrative Measures

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Cleaning practices will include:

- Frequently touched surfaces (those touched by larger numbers of people) are cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day.
- Surfaces touched by fewer people are cleaned 1x/day.
- Practices will be in place to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces when they are dirty.
- Other general cleaning occurs in line with regular practices.
- Practices are in place to clean and disinfect any surfaces a person's body fluids have contacted after they have displayed symptoms of illness.

Gatherings and Events

School extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools) are in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and Federal health recommendations and [Orders](#).

At this time, indoor gatherings are limited to 50 people or 50% capacity of the space.

Space Arrangement

During breaks and other unstructured time in indoor settings, strategies will be in place to ensure there is enough space available to prevent involuntary physical contact. Staggered recess and lunch times may be considered.

Staff Spaces Only

K-12 schools and other worksites will 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.

Visitors Access/Community Use

Schools will leave front doors unlocked for visitor access; however, parents and visitors must make appointments to enter the school.

Visitor access to schools may be restricted by local or provincial public health orders or recommendations from a medical health officer. See the [Regional Differences](#) section for more information.

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 and included in communications to students and families.

All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school. See the [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#) section for more information, including exceptions to mask requirements for visitors.

Where possible, visitor access should be limited to those areas required for the purpose of the visit (e.g. school office for drop-off/pick-up of items, gymnasium for a sports event, etc.).

Parents/caregivers are encouraged to drop-off/pick-up students outside of the school.

Parents/caregivers and other visitors should respect others personal space while on school grounds including outside.

Curriculum, Programs and Activities

For music and physical education (and other subjects as necessary), prevention practices specific to the activity can be found in the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings – Updated August 24, 2021](#) on page 26.

Local day field trips are approved at this time. No overnight travel.

Local and international field trips will occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial, and Federal public health recommendations and Orders for local and/or international travel.

Student Transportation

Bus cleaning practices will include:

- Frequently touched surfaces on school buses will be cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day.
- Surfaces touched by fewer people are cleaned 1x/day.
- Practices are in place to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces when they are dirty.
- Other general cleaning occurs in line with regular practices.
- Practices are in place to encourage bus drivers and passengers to practice hand hygiene before and after trips.

Bus passengers will be spread out if empty seats are available.

Bus windows are opened when the weather allows.

Bus drivers, adult volunteers and visitors, and students in Grade 4 or higher wear masks according to the guidelines or applicable public health orders/recommendations.

Grade K-3 students wear masks based on their personal or family/caregivers' choice.

Carpooling - for carpooling related to school activities, students, staff and other adults must follow the mask requirements. Spread out vehicle occupants as much as possible. Travel with the same people whenever possible. Hand hygiene before and after trips.

Food Services

Food services (e.g., meal programs, cafeterias, fundraisers, etc.), are following regular operational and food safety practices.

Schools should continue to emphasize that food and beverages should not be shared.

Community Use of Schools

Community use of school facilities is aligned with related public health guidance, recommendations and Orders. Safety plans are required from user groups.

Water Fountains

The use of water fountains is not limited. Fountains will be cleaned/disinfected daily.