

Exposure Control Plan

COVID – 19 Communicable Disease Guidelines

Appendix G of the District Pandemic Plan

The School District Exposure Control Plan is governed by the Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines; staff, students, and public are responsible for abiding by the District Exposure Plan when entering District facilities. The Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines should be referenced for more specific details.

Please follow the link for specific information on COVID-19 Communicable Disease guidelines: [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Setting \(PDF\)](#).

Introduction

School supports students in developing their potential and acquiring the knowledge, skills and abilities they need for lifelong success. In person learning, as a part of a student's education, provides the opportunity for peer engagement, which supports social and emotional development as well as overall wellness.

Based on guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control and experience to date within BC and other jurisdictions showing schools as low-risk sites for COVID-19 transmission, even with increased risk of COVID-19 in some communities, K-12 students can participate in full-time, in-class instruction in accordance with current public health guidelines for schools.

Worksafe

District sites are required to comply with the [WorkSafeBC Guidance for Workplaces](#) and complete the Communicable disease prevention planning plan outlined in the guide.

Contents

RISK ASSESSMENT	3
KEY UPDATES	4
Summary Covid-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12.....	4
GUIDELINES.....	5
Vaccines	5
Masks	5
Physical Distancing & Space Arrangements.....	5
Staff Only Spaces.....	6
Illness and Health Check	6
Hand hygiene	7
Events and gatherings.....	7
Extracurricular Activities	7
Ventilation & Air Circulation	7
Visitor Access & Community Use	8
COVID -19 POSTERS	9
IMPORTANT LINKS:	9
APPENDIX 1 - CUSTODIAL PROCEDURES.....	10
APPENDIX 2 - BCCDC COVID-19 EXPOSURE FLOWCHART.....	12
APPENDIX 3 – VENTILATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW	13

RISK ASSESSMENT

As COVID-19 poses a risk to everyone, this risk assessment correlates the ability of staff to practice Physical Distancing and Space Arrangement to determine PPE. Based on guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control and experience to date within B.C. and other jurisdictions showing schools as low-risk sites for COVID-19 transmission, even with increased risk of COVID-19 in some communities, K-12 students can participate in full-time, in-class instruction in accordance with current public health guidelines for schools

Low Risk: Workers who typically not required to work physical distancing or space arrangements of students or others.

Moderate Risk: Workers, who must work within 1 to 2 metres of others, do not have a plexi-glass shield, PPE or who clean and disinfect areas.

High Risk: Workers who must work within 1 to 2 metres of symptomatic people.

ROLE	Low	Moderate	High
Reception/Administration	X		
Teachers/Educational Assistants/Indigenous Support	X		
Supporting complex learners		X	
Supporting students with care plans		X	
Working with students in close proximity		X	
Custodians		X	
Information Technology Support	X		
Trades	X		
Drivers		X	
First Aid Attendants			X

KEY UPDATES

Summary Covid-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12

As of August 24th, 2021

Summary of Key Updates⁴

Updated guidance regarding mask requirements in the following sections:⁴

- **Working with Students with Disabilities/Diverse Abilities (p.10)**⁴
- **Student Transportation (p.11)**⁴
- **Personal Protective Equipment (p.19)**⁴
- **Music Programs (p.26)**⁴
- **Physical and Health Education/Outdoor Programs (p.26)**⁴
- **School Sports (p.28)**⁴
- **Theatre, Film & Dance Programs (p.29)**⁴

GUIDELINES

The general Guidelines information based on the Communicable Disease Guidelines have been outlined below and should be used in conjunction with the full [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Setting \(PDF\)](#).

Vaccines

Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and communities. The vaccines used in B.C. remain highly effective against COVID-19, including among variants of concern. Vaccinated people aged 12 and older tend to have milder illness if they get infected and are also less likely to spread COVID-19 than unvaccinated people 12 and older.

Masks

The mask mandate in place at the end of the 2020-21 school year will stay in place to start this school year. All K- 12 staff, visitors, and students in grades **K to 12** will be required to wear non-medical masks or a face shield/mask in all indoor areas of the school and on school buses. Students in kindergarten to Grade 3 will be strongly encouraged to wear masks. The mask guidance has been supported by a provincial health order on mask wearing.

Additional Updates: 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.

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

In the event a student, staff, or other adult (including visitors) cannot comply with a specific safety measure due to health or behavioural reasons, schools/districts should work with these individuals (and their parents/caregivers, if applicable to a student) to explore other environmental and administrative measures to ensure their safety and the safety of others.

Physical Distancing & Space Arrangements

Although public health no longer recommends learning groups and physical distancing of 2M as 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 respect room occupancy limits and use space available to spread people out.

Illness and Health Check

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.
- 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 and are recommended to stay home.

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). Students, staff and visitors should continue to wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible.

Events and gatherings

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.

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.

Ventilation & 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 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).

At this time the School District is working towards improving the ventilation systems:

1. Increasing filter cycle replacement cycles and upgrading filters if operationally feasible;
2. Increasing outside airflow into ventilation system and increasing air exchange cycles;
3. Expanded HVAC hours of operation before and after school;
4. CO₂ setpoint lowered to ensure a higher concentration of outside air during occupancy.

Appendix 3 outlines a ventilation system overview form that that will be used by schools to document the state of facilities, requirements and recommendations for site management.

Visitor Access & Community Use

- Schools can leave front doors unlocked for visitor access, but may wish to encourage visitors to make appointments.
 - Visitor access to schools may be restricted by local or provincial public health orders or recommendations from a medical health officer.
- 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's 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).
- Schools should keep a list of the date, names and contact information for all visitors and staff who are not typically onsite who entered the school over the past 45 days
- All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school.
- 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.), and parents/caregivers should be encouraged to drop-off/pick-up students outside of the school.
- Parents/caregivers and other visitors should respect others' personal space while on school groups, including outside. After hours community use of facilities is allowed in alignment with other health and safety measures:
 - 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. Parents should wait outside to receive children.
- Community users are responsible for collecting names and contact information of participants to support contact tracing activities by the local health authority.

COVID -19 POSTERS

[https://www.worksafebc.com/en/forms-resources#sort=Relevancy&f:topic-facet=\[Health%20%26%20Safety\]&f:content-type-facet=\[Posters%20%26%20signs\]&f:language-facet=\[English\]](https://www.worksafebc.com/en/forms-resources#sort=Relevancy&f:topic-facet=[Health%20%26%20Safety]&f:content-type-facet=[Posters%20%26%20signs]&f:language-facet=[English])

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/posters/prevent-spread-communicable-disease-handwashing?lang=en>

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/posters/prevent-spread-communicable-disease-how-to-use-mask>

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/posters/prevent-spread-communicable-disease-cover-coughs-sneezes?lang=en>

IMPORTANT LINKS:

[Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)

[BCCDC COVID-19 Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

[K-12 Education Recovery Plan](#)

[COVID-19 Protocols for School & District Administrators and Staff](#)

[Worksafe - Communicable Disease Prevention Guide](#)

APPENDIX 1 - CUSTODIAL PROCEDURES

Custodial practices through the district during the COVID-19 pandemic meet the provincial guidelines as per the Office of the Provincial Health Officer:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>

[Cleaning & Disinfectants for Public Settings document.](#)

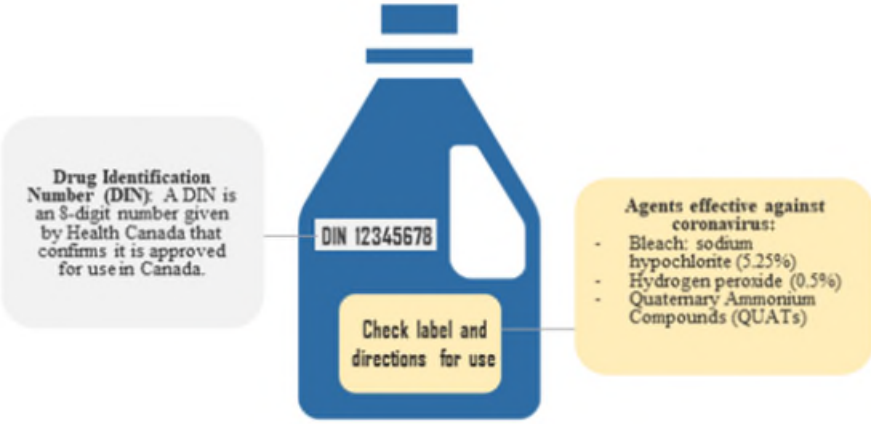
[Hard-surface disinfectants for use against coronavirus \(COVID-19\).](#)

1. Our disinfection products meet the requirements as per the Public Health Office for disinfecting against COVID-19.

For frequently touched surfaces and areas that are likely to become contaminated, the below list of common disinfectants is provided as a guide to choosing products. Often janitorial product outlets carry all of these products. *Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.*

Important notes:

- ▶ Ensure disinfectant product has a Drug Identification Number (DIN) on its label.
- ▶ Follow product instructions for dilution, contact time and safe use.
- ▶ All soiled surfaces should be cleaned before disinfecting (unless otherwise stated on the product).



The diagram shows a blue plastic bottle of disinfectant. A callout box on the left points to the label on the bottle, which reads 'DIN 12345678'. A callout box on the right points to the label on the bottle, which reads 'Check label and directions for use'. A callout box on the right also points to a list of agents effective against coronavirus: Bleach: sodium hypochlorite (5.25%), Hydrogen peroxide (0.5%), and Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QUATs).

Drug Identification Number (DIN): A DIN is an 8-digit number given by Health Canada that confirms it is approved for use in Canada.

Agents effective against coronavirus:

- Bleach: sodium hypochlorite (5.25%)
- Hydrogen peroxide (0.5%)
- Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QUATs)

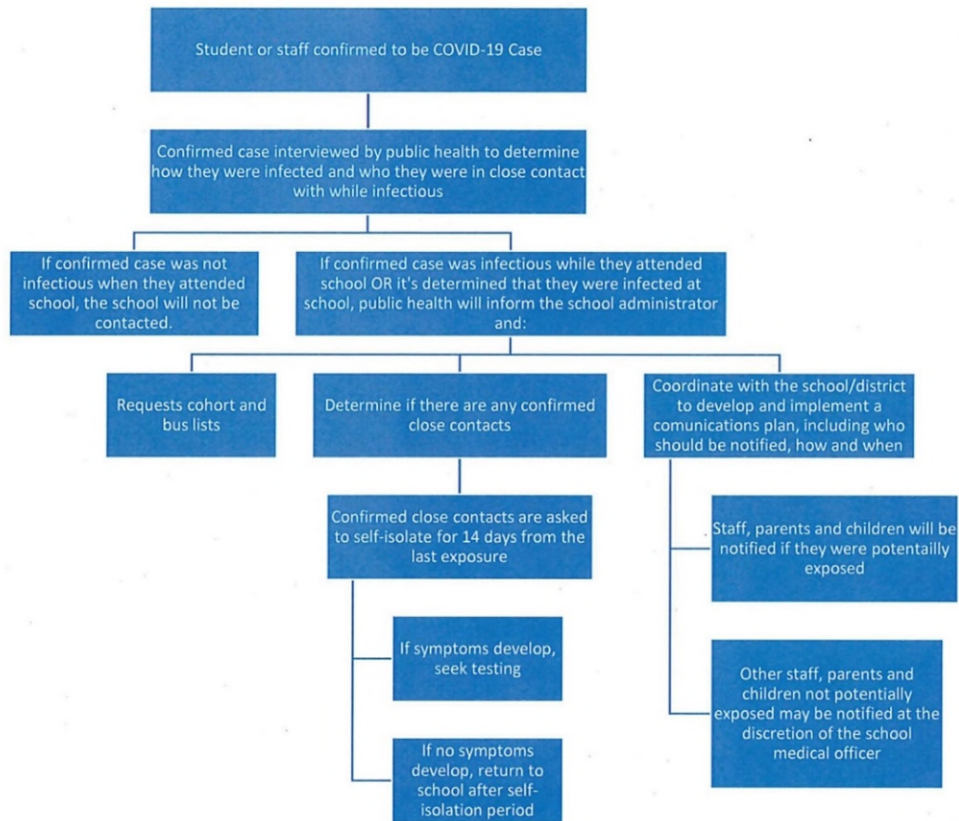
2. The Custodial department is well stocked with disinfection and sanitizing products as well as PPE's.
3. A custodial day shift will focus on the priority of high touch surfaces, and an afternoon shift to provide deeper cleaning. Custodians have been advised to stay home if they are ill.

4. Custodians have all been educated with regards to COVID-19, physical distancing, and space arrangement, hand washing and cough etiquette.
5. Custodial Foreman following up on a regular basis with regards to disinfection policies and procedures during this time.

APPENDIX 2 - BCCDC COVID-19 EXPOSURE FLOWCHART

Page 22 of 26

Appendix B: Public Health Actions if a Staff, Student or Other Person Who Has Been in the School is a Confirmed COVID-19 Case



Confirmed close contacts are determined based on the length of time of exposure and nature of the interaction. Only public health can determine who is a close contact.



APPENDIX 3 – VENTILATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

School District:	54 - Bulkley Valley
School Name:	
REQUIREMENT: Regular inspection and maintenance of HVAC systems	Yes/No: Yes
	<i>HVAC & Filter systems inspections occur at least once a month. Filters are changed on as necessary to maintain increased ventilation.</i>
	<i>Filters upgrades where appropriate to match equipment specifications, capabilities and balance controls.</i>
	<i>DDC control systems constantly monitor ventilation operations for failures, poor performance, or updates requiring increases to ventilation.</i>
	<i>CO₂ Setpoints lowered to increase ventilation and cycle rate of air circulation and intake of fresh air.</i>
	<i>Fresh air intake has been increases from a systems approach, but will be coordinated with outside temperature to mitigate and balance a comfortable internal temperature with air exchange cycles.</i>
	<i>HVAC hours expanded prior to and after instructional time to provide better ventilation</i>
RECOMMENDATION: Increase supply of outside air	Yes/No: Choose an item.
	Detail, Rationale:
RECOMMENDATION: Increase air cycle exchange	Yes/No: Choose an item.
	Detail, Rationale:
RECOMMENDATION: Upgrade filtration or replacement cycle	Yes/No: Choose an item.
	Detail, Rationale:
RECOMMENDATION: Use other air cleaning or treatment technologies	Yes/No: Choose an item.
	Detail, Rationale:

RECOMMENDATION: Manage energy use and air distribution through building automation control systems	Yes/No: Choose an item.
	Detail, Rationale:
Other Recommendations or Relevant Information:	Detail, Rationale:
District Contact for any Questions:	Name:
	Phone Number:
	Email: