



Additional Measures for School District 51 Communicable Disease Plan

Due to the recent rise in cases of COVID-19 in BC and the emergence of the more transmissible Omicron variant, public health has recommended time-limited enhancements to the Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools. These enhancements are in addition to the measures found in our [SD 51 Communicable Disease Plan](#).

While these enhanced measures may provide additional layers of protection, vaccines continue to be the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 within K-12 school settings. Everyone eligible is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Gatherings and Events

- Where possible, schools will seek virtual alternatives to school gatherings, including for assemblies and staff meetings.
 - If a virtual alternative is not possible, the size of the gatherings should be minimized as much as possible.
- Schools will not host sports tournaments.
- No spectators for indoor school events.
- All educational activities, including extracurricular, and before, during or after-school programs led by a school, will **not** require proof of vaccination unless otherwise specified in local, regional, or provincial recommendations and public health orders.

Space Arrangement

- Arrange rooms to maximize space between students and staff.
 - Consider different common space, classroom, and learning environment configurations to allow space between students and adults (e.g., different desk and table formations).

Visitors

- Visitors to the school limited to those people supporting activities that are of benefit to student learning and wellbeing (e.g., teacher candidates, immunizers, meal program volunteers, etc.).
- Visitors will follow school Communicable Disease Plan and complete a daily health check before entering the school.

Limit crowding in common spaces

- Implement strategies that prevent crowding during class transition times.
 - This **may** include staggered start/stop times and staggered recess/snack, lunch, and class transition times.
- Minimize crowding in common staff spaces.
 - Use alternative spaces for lunch and breaks.

This guidance has been issued along with other extensive public health measures announced December 21st, 2021, by the Provincial Health Officer. This addendum is in place until January 31st, 2022, at which point it will be reviewed. Unless revised or rescinded, the enhanced guidance in this addendum should be used in addition to guidance in the [Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#).

These measures, combined with the existing Communicable Disease Safety Plan, will minimize the spread of the virus in schools. It is essential to follow all guidelines carefully, including the following:

- Encourage everyone who is eligible to get fully vaccinated
- Do daily health checks and stay home when sick
- Use available space to spread out
- Respect others personal space
- Wear mask
- Clean hands regularly