



SD51 Communicable Disease Plan

updated March 21, 2022

Changes are highlighted in yellow

INTRODUCTION

School District 51 is following the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) to ensure our schools are safe places for students and staff. The guidelines are built upon the [Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) from the BC Centre of Disease Control (BCCDC) and [WorkSafeBC](#) to ensure schools have effective measures in place to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. In case of any variance between the guidelines from the Ministry of Education and the BCCDC, SD 51 will follow the guidelines of the Ministry.

These guidelines are intended to support K-12 education employees, students, parents, caregivers, administrators, and school community members to:

- Be informed about public health measures and how they support a safe school environment
- Understand their roles and responsibilities in maintaining and promoting safe and healthy schools

SD 51 strives to have safe and healthy schools that are welcoming for learners and staff and that foster and sustain mental well-being as well. We also want to ensure effective and ongoing communication with school leaders, community partners, parents, caregivers, students, unions, and employees.

Schools will implement psychological safety measures and trauma-informed practice alongside physical health and safety measures as found in the [K-12 Education Recovery Plan](#).

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLANS

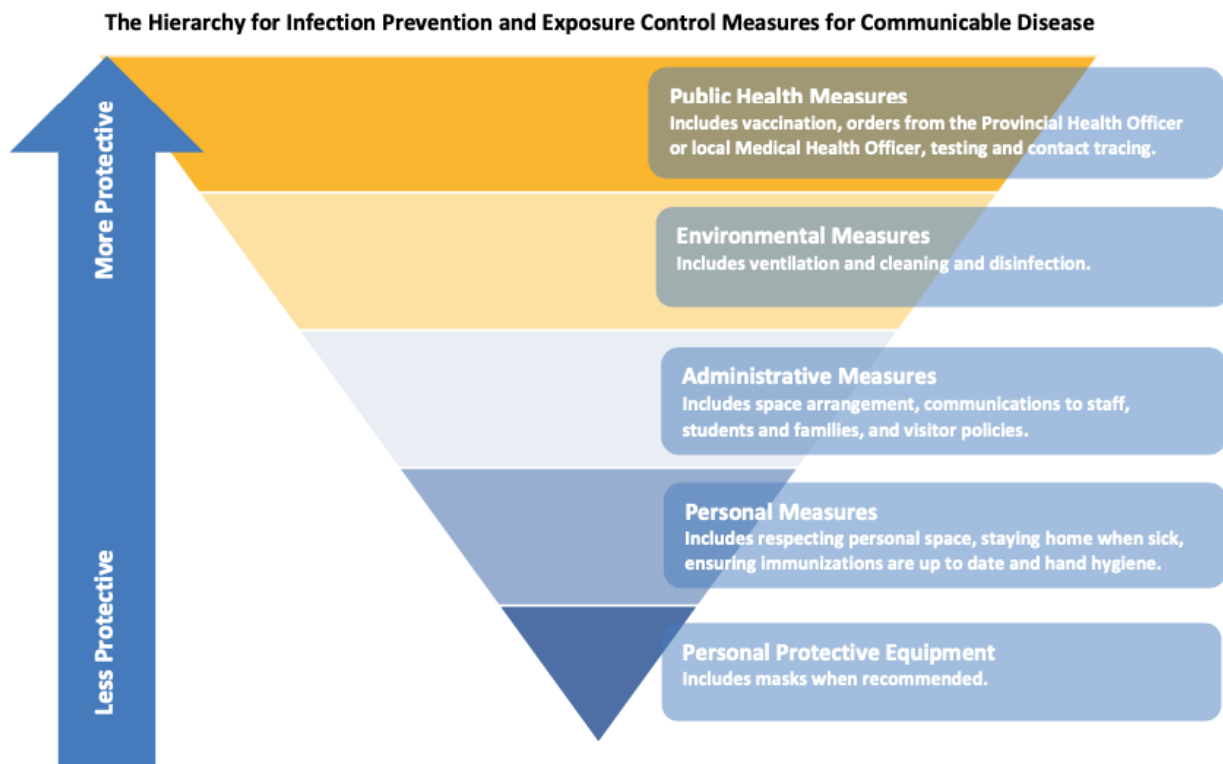
Communicable disease prevention focuses on reducing the risk of workplace transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, and includes both ongoing measures (e.g., hand hygiene, cleaning) and additional measures to be implemented as advised by public health.

Schools and district administrators must regularly review their communicable disease plans and should do so with their Site Committees and Joint Health and Safety Committees, and address where there are identified gaps in implementation. [WorkSafeBC's Communicable disease prevention: A guide for employers](#) outlines a four-step process to reduce the risk of communicable disease transmission.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND EXPOSURE CONTROL MEASURES

Infection prevention and exposure control measures help create safe environments by reducing the spread of communicable diseases like COVID-19. These measures are very effective in schools where there is relatively consistent groupings of people and multiple measures put in place such as not going to school sick, practicing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette and other environmental measures.

The Hierarchy for Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease describes the measures to take to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in schools. Control measures at the top are more effective and protective than those at the bottom. By implementing a combination of measures at each level, the risk of COVID-19 is greatly reduced.



SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

SD 51 schools can support students to practice personal preventive measures by:

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

SD 51 staff will utilize positive and inclusive approaches to engage students in personal preventative practices aligned with existing professional practices to address behaviour. Approaches should not exclude students from participating in school or potentially result in stigma.

Staff will 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, and those choices must be respected.

School administrators will review the information in this section with their school community to raise awareness and support from staff, students and families.

VACCINES

Vaccination protects from serious illness due to COVID-19 and is the most effective way to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our communities. BCCDC strongly recommends adults interacting with children to be fully vaccinated. All COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in Canada protect against serious complications, including from the Omicron variant. See BCCDC for trusted information on [COVID-19 vaccines](#).

SD 51 will share evidence-based information (e.g., from [BCCDC](#) or [ImmunizeBC](#)) and details on how and where people can be vaccinated with staff, students and families prior to the start of the year. We will also work with Interior Health to explore opportunities to establish school-based COVID-19 vaccination clinics to help increase community uptake.

SPACE ARRANGEMENT

Schools will return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches, though will still consider implementing strategies to help create space between people and to support students and staff using a trauma-informed approach:

- Remind students and staff about respecting others' personal space using visual supports, signage, prompts, etc.
- Use available space to spread people out, both in learning environments and for gatherings and events, where possible.
- Use strategies that prevent crowding at pick-up and drop-off times. Each school will have specific protocols around this item. This information will be on the school's website.
- Take students outside more often.
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways and around lockers, to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through. Each school will have specific protocols around this item. This information will be on the school's website.
- Consider using floor markings and posters to address traffic flow throughout schools where hallway congestion is a concern.

STAFF ONLY SPACES

Use the following practices:

- Use floor markings and signage to direct traffic flow and prevent crowding in staff only areas.

- For gatherings like meetings or professional development, respect room occupancy limits, use space available 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.

SCHOOL GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

For school gatherings and events that bring together multiple classes or other groups of students (e.g., school assemblies, multiple classes doing a single activity, etc.) from the same school (but members of the school community beyond staff, students and necessary volunteers are not attending), there is no specific capacity limit.

The Gathering and Events Order from public health will be lifted at the end of the day on April 7, 2022. Until then, indoor 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, etc.) will not exceed 50 people or 50% operating capacity, whichever is greater, and proof of vaccination requirements will not be implemented.

After April 7, 2022, all school gatherings and events will return to 100% capacity.

SD 51 will

- Respect student and staff comfort levels regarding personal space.
- Respect room occupancy limits, use space available to spread people out, and consider virtual options.
- Gradual transition to larger gatherings like school-wide assemblies, including starting with virtual or small in-person options.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES/DIVERSE ABILITIES AND/OR RECEIVING HEALTH SERVICES

EXPECTATIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS

- SD 51 health and safety measures will promote inclusion of students with disabilities and/or diverse abilities with supports and services.
- Most students with disabilities/diverse abilities or medical complexity are not considered at a greater risk of experiencing severe illness from COVID-19.

GUIDELINES FOR STAFF AND/OR THOSE WORKING WITH STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES/DIVERSE ABILITIES, COMPLEX BEHAVIOURS, MEDICAL COMPLEXITIES OR RECEIVING DELEGATED CARE WHERE PHYSICAL CONTACT MAY BE REQUIRED.

- Those providing health or education services that require being near a student will follow their risk assessment methods to determine what PPE is needed for general communicable disease prevention in accordance with routine practices. Additional personal protective equipment is not required beyond that usually used in regular course of work (e.g., gloves for toileting).

- Parents and caregivers of children who are considered at a 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.
- Students are not required to wear a mask or face covering when receiving services, though may continue to based on their or their parent/caregiver's personal choice.
- Schools will continue to have non-medical masks on hand for those who have forgotten theirs but would like to wear one.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

BUSING

- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Bus drivers will clean 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, teachers and students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 may choose to wear masks or face coverings when they are on the bus.
- Parent must assess child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, and other infectious illnesses before sending them to school. If child is sick, they cannot take the bus or go to school.
- Students will clean hands before and after taking the bus.
- Passengers should be spread out if empty seats available.
- Open windows if weather permits.
- Practice respiratory etiquette.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Regular cleaning and disinfecting are essential to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. School facilities will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BC CDC's [Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings](#) document.

PRODUCTS AND PROCEDURES

- Prior to disinfecting, cleaning procedures shall be followed to ensure physical removal of visible soiling.

For disinfecting, SD 51 will:

- Use Oxivir, a hydrogen peroxide-based disinfectant approved by the BC CDC and listed on Health Canada's hard-surface disinfectants for use against coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Use hospital-grade terminal misting systems in larger school sites to ensure all surfaces are disinfected. Product will be sprayed on and allowed to dry as this is most effective.

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 every 24 hours.

- As a transitional protocol, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces at schools with more than 50 staff/students regularly attending will occur during the school day. For other sites, frequently touched surfaces will be addressed as part of the regular evening clean.
- Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty.
- Garbage containers emptied daily.

The requirements above do not apply to any spaces/equipment that are not being used by students, staff, or visitors.

The recommended cleaning and disinfecting frequency for K-12 schools and other community settings outlined as above was determined by infection prevention and control experts at the BC Ministry of Health, BC Centre for Disease Control, and the Provincial Health Services Authority.

FREQUENTLY TOUCHED SURFACES

Frequently touched surfaces include:

- Items used by multiple students and staff including doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, water fountains, faucet handles, toilet handles, tables, desks, chairs, manipulatives, and toys.
 - Students will be able to use water fountains.
 - Hand hygiene will happen before and after use.
 - There will be no restrictions with use of washrooms or other spaces to support student learning and wellbeing. Schools will return to full operation of all spaces in alignments with protocols outlined in this document.
- Shared equipment (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 (office service window, library circulation desk).

Frequently touched items like toys and manipulatives that may not be cleaned often (e.g., fabrics) can be used but hands must be cleaned before and after use. Carpets and rugs can be used.

NOTE: There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution or sharing of books or paper based educational resources to students because of COVID-19.

Laminated or glossy paper-based products (e.g., children's books or magazines) and items with 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, or for hand hygiene to be practiced before or after use.

CLEANING & DISINFECTING BODILY FLUIDS

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

- Wear disposable gloves.
- Wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves.
- Follow regular health and safety procedures and regularly used PPE for blood and bodily fluids associated with toileting, biting, spitting.

LAUNDRY

Follow these procedures when doing laundry (Home Economics, PE, Life Skills, etc.):

- Laundry placed in basket with plastic liner.
- Do not shake dirty items.
- Wearing gloves optional. If wearing gloves, ensure proper hand hygiene is performed before and after use.

VISITOR ACCESS/COMMUNITY USE

- Schools are responsible for ensuring 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 will be posted by entrance to school, on school's website and included in communications to students and families.
- Schools will return to routine sign in/sign out practices for visitors and staff not typically onsite.
 - Schools do not need to keep a list of the date, names, and contact information of schools for communicable disease prevention purposes.
- Schools can return to routine pick up/drop off practices, though will still consider strategies to prevent crowding during these times.
 - Parents/caregivers and other visitors will respect others' personal space while on school grounds, including outside.

After hours community use of facilities is allowed in alignment with other health and safety measures:

- Must occur in line with those activities permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial, and federal public health recommendations and Order.
- Diligent hand hygiene.
- Respiratory etiquette.
- Ensuring participants stay home if feeling ill.
- Limit building access to only those areas required for purpose of activity.

ILLNESS & SELF-ASSESSMENT 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 will assess their children **daily** for illness before sending them to school.

- Parents/caregivers and/or students can use the [Daily Health Check & What to Do When Sick](#) resource for daily assessment of symptoms.
- Staff and other adults will 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 RESPONSIBILITY

- Signage will be posted on entrance doors to remind staff and other adults that they are responsible to complete daily health check before entering the school/worksite and to stay home if sick.
- Frequent clear communication with staff to complete daily health check and stay home if sick.
- Frequent clear communication with families that they need to complete daily health check with child and keep them at home if sick.

If student or staff member becomes sick at school, they will:

- Be sent home as soon as possible,
- Go to safe, comfortable place that is separated from others,
- Be provided with non-medical mask if experiencing respiratory symptoms if wanted,
- Be supervised (if child) until pick up possible. Supervising staff may choose to wear a mask and/or face shield, will avoid touching bodily fluids as much as possible, and will practice diligent hand hygiene.

Surfaces and/or equipment which the person's bodily fluids may have been in contact with while ill (desk, bathroom stall, etc.,) will be cleaned and disinfected before being used again.

No health-care provider note is required for students or staff to return to school.

STAY HOME WHEN REQUIRED TO SELF-ISOLATE

Students, staff, and other adults must stay home if required to self-isolate. Additional information on self-isolation requirements and support is available from [BCCDC](#).

SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS AND RETURN TO SCHOOLS

Students, staff, or other adults must stay 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:

- [When to get a COVID-19 test](#)
- Daily Health Check & What to Do When Sick [tool](#)
- Staff, students, and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC's 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 [if they have tested positive for COVID-19 and/or improvement of their symptoms](#). See Appendix A – COVID-19 Symptoms, Testing & Return to School at the end of this document for more information.

Students and staff who experience symptoms consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (like allergies) can attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as usual. They do not require re-assessment by a health-care provider and will not be required to provide a health-care provider note. If they experience any new or unusual symptoms, they need to seek assessment by a health-care provider.

Students and staff may still attend school if a member of their household develops new symptoms of [illness and/or has tested positive for COVID-19, provided the student/staff has no symptoms](#)

themselves. BCCDC has more information for those considered a [close contact](#), which are usually people from the same household.

PROTOCOLS FOR MANAGING ILLNESS AND COVID-19 ACTIVITY AT SCHOOL

Refer to the [COVID-19 Protocols for Schools and District Administrators and Staff](#) for more information. School principals will contact the School Board Office for more clarification.

HAND HYGIENE

Rigorous handwashing with plain soap and water or using an effective hand sanitizer reduces the spread of illness. Follow these guidelines to ensure effective hand hygiene.

- Give regular opportunities for staff and students to practice hand hygiene
- If sinks not available, have alcohol-based hand sanitizers that have met Health Canada requirements
- Wash hands upon school entry and before/after breaks and eating, using washroom, and using frequently touched shared equipment
- Display hand hygiene posters **for students and adults** at handwashing sites
- Keep handwashing supplies well-stocked including soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer
- Staff will help younger students as needed
- If hand visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand rub may not be effective at eliminating microbes
 - Soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly dirty
 - If not available, use alcohol-based hand wipe followed by hand rub

RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Students and staff will:

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

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice for staff, students and visitors. A person's choice will be supported and respected.

School will continue to have non-medical masks on hand for those who have forgotten theirs but would like to wear one, or who become ill at school.

GENERAL 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.

SD 51 has increased fresh air intake in school by adjusting HVAC systems.

To enhance school ventilation, schools in SD 51 may:

- Move activities outdoor when possible and consider moving classrooms outside when space and weather permit.
- Where possible, open windows if weather permits and HVAC system function will not be negatively impacted.

EMERGENCY AND EVACUATION DRILLS

SD 51 schools will continue to practice emergency and evacuation drills, including the 6 required annual fire drills, and will modify drill procedures to adhere to SD 51 health and safety guidelines (e.g. providing additional muster spots to prevent crowding/congregating).

Other protocols:

- Staff notified in advance of drills (no surprise drills).
- Ensuring drills to be “total evacuation fire drills” involving all occupants as per BC Fire Code.
- Fire safety plans updated to consider current pandemic protocols, including local public Health Orders.

In place of actual emergency, emergency procedures take precedence over COVID-19 preventive measures.

COMMUNICATION & TRAINING/ORIENTATION

SD 51 schools and departments will provide health and safety orientation for staff (including newly hired staff and staff who change worksites) and will also provide it to parents/caregivers, students, and other adults in the school (e.g., teacher candidates in practicums, volunteers) to ensure all members of the school community are well-informed of their responsibilities and resources available.

SD51 will provide COVID-19 safety orientation opportunities for staff when there are updates to communicable disease plans and will consult with local unions and staff health and safety representatives. See Appendix B Communicable Disease Plan Orientation Checklist for help in planning orientations.

Health and safety guidelines and related resources are available on [SD51 District website](#).

CURRICULUM, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

All curriculum, programs and activities will operate in alignment with provincial K-12 health and safety guidelines.

Equipment will be cleaned and disinfected as per Cleaning and Disinfecting guidelines in this document. Equipment that touches the mouth (water bottles, instrument mouth pieces, etc.,) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected between use.

Hand hygiene will be practiced including whenever hands are visibly dirty.

FIELD TRIPS

Follow existing policies and procedures as well as guidance in this document. In SD 51, additional measures specific to field trips must be taken, including:

- Follow student transportation guidance in this document.
- Schools will train volunteers providing supervision in SD 51 guidelines and will ensure volunteers strictly adhere to required health and safety guidelines.
- Alignment with applicable local, regional, provincial, and federal public health recommendations and Orders, including for international travel.
- For overnight camps, guidance from BCCDC and BC Camps Association must be followed when planning overnight trips that include group accommodation.
- Schools will avoid venue/locations that place additional requirements that could prevent a person from being able to participate, particularly students.
 - If this is not possible, and the field trip/travel cannot occur otherwise, schools can require participants to confirm they are able to meet the additional requirements (e.g., able to provide proof of vaccination).

FOOD/CULINARY PROGRAMS

Schools can include food preparation as part of learning programs for students. The following guidelines must be followed:

- Food safety for food and culinary programs.
 - Follow normal food and safety measures and requirements
 - Implement cleaning and disinfecting measures outlined in the *Cleaning & Disinfecting* section of this document.
 - FOODSAFE Level 1 is a helpful resource to ensure food safety and worker safety.
- Hand Hygiene and Cleaning Protocols
 - Practice diligent hand hygiene by washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds.
 - Students and staff practice diligent hand hygiene in alignment with normal food safety measures and requirements.
 - Refer to *Cleaning & Disinfecting* section for cleaning protocols and laundry.

FOOD SERVICES

- Schools can continue to provide food services, including for sale.
- Schools can continue to accept food donations to support learning and the delivery of meal programs, breakfast clubs and other food access initiatives.
- School meal programs should follow regular operating practices.
- Food and beverages are not to be shared.

FUNDRAISERS

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

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM AND ENTRY

- Information about communicable disease prevention measures will be communicated to families and students prior to school start.
- Parents/caregivers must follow visitor guidelines outlined in this document.

- Teach students to learn and practice respecting personal space, recognizing they are unlikely to always do this.
- Use gentle reminders and encourage students to kindly support one another.
- Frequently touched items can be used if hand hygiene is practiced before and after.
- Carpets and rugs may be used.

MUSIC PROGRAMS

- Shared equipment cleaned and disinfected according to Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidelines.
- Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g., instrument music pieces) must be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- Music education will be delivered in line with [Guidance for Music Classes in BC During COVID-19](#) developed by BC Music Educators' Association and the Coalition for Music Education in BC.

SHARED OFFICE SPACE FOR STAFF

The guidelines in this document determine the measures in staff-only spaces within a school.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION(PHE)/OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

- Create space between students and staff and encourage outdoor activities and programs as much as possible.
- Shared equipment can be used provided it is cleaned and disinfected as per *Cleaning and Disinfecting* section of this document.
 - Students will use proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment and will practice proper respiratory etiquette.
 - Equipment that touches mouth should not be shared (water bottles).

PLAYGROUNDS

SD 51 playgrounds are a safe environment. There is no current evidence of COVID-19 transmission in playground environments. The following measures will be used:

- Wash hands before and after outdoor play.
- Try to minimize direct contact between students.
- Sand and water can be used; students must wash hands before and after play.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES / LEARNING COMMONS

- Laminated or glossy paper-based products (e.g., children's books or magazines) and items with covers (e.g., DVDs) are low risk items.
- Regular book browsing and circulation processes can occur as normal.
- There is no need for these items to be cleaned and disinfected or quarantined for any period of time.
- For information on cleaning, see guidelines in Cleaning and Disinfecting.
- BC Teacher Librarian Association has developed [Recommendations for Access to Library Learning Common Resources to Meet COVID-19 Requirements](#). If any discrepancy in guidance, SD 51 will follow Ministry of Education guidelines set out in this document.

SCHOOL SPORTS

- Intra- and inter-school programs, activities (e.g., intramurals, sports team practices, games), sports academies and events can continue in alignment with **the guidance within this document** and the following:
 - Capacity should follow that outlined within the *School Gatherings and Events* section.
 - Sports activities will be held outside whenever possible.
 - See Visitor Access/Community Use section for information on protocols for spectators.

TRADES IN TRAINING PROGRAMS

- Ongoing collaboration and communication with post-secondary institutions for Trades in Training if applicable.
 - Ensure staff and students in K-12 and the post-secondary institution are aware of health and safety measures in place.
 - Diligent student self-assessment when transitioning between school and workplace.
- For Industry Training Authority (ITA), new information can be found at:
 - [WorkSafeBC Communicable Disease Prevention](#) web page, including [COVID-19 and communicable disease information for workers](#).

THEATRE, FILM AND DANCE PROGRAMS

- Intra- and inter-school programs, activities, and events (e.g., plays, concerts) can continue in alignment with the guidance within this document and the following:
 - Capacity should follow that outlined within the *School Gatherings and Events* section
 - Shared equipment will be cleaned and disinfected as per guidelines in *Cleaning and Disinfecting* section.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Employers must follow current guidelines from [Provincial Health Officer](#) and [WorkSafeBC](#). SD 51 students can engage in work placements, if:

- Students are covered with required, valid workplace insurance as per WorkSafeBC.
 - Information can be found at:
 - [WorkSafeBC Communicable Disease Prevention](#) web page, including [COVID-19 and communicable disease information for workers](#).
- [Ministry Work Experience Program Guide](#) standards are followed.
- Schools will assess and determine it is safe for students to continue or begin a placement, considering SD 51 Health and Safety Guidelines.
 - Schools must obtain parent/guardian sign-off for all new and continuing placements.
- Staff/students accompanying students with special needs will adhere to health and safety guidelines of workplace.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

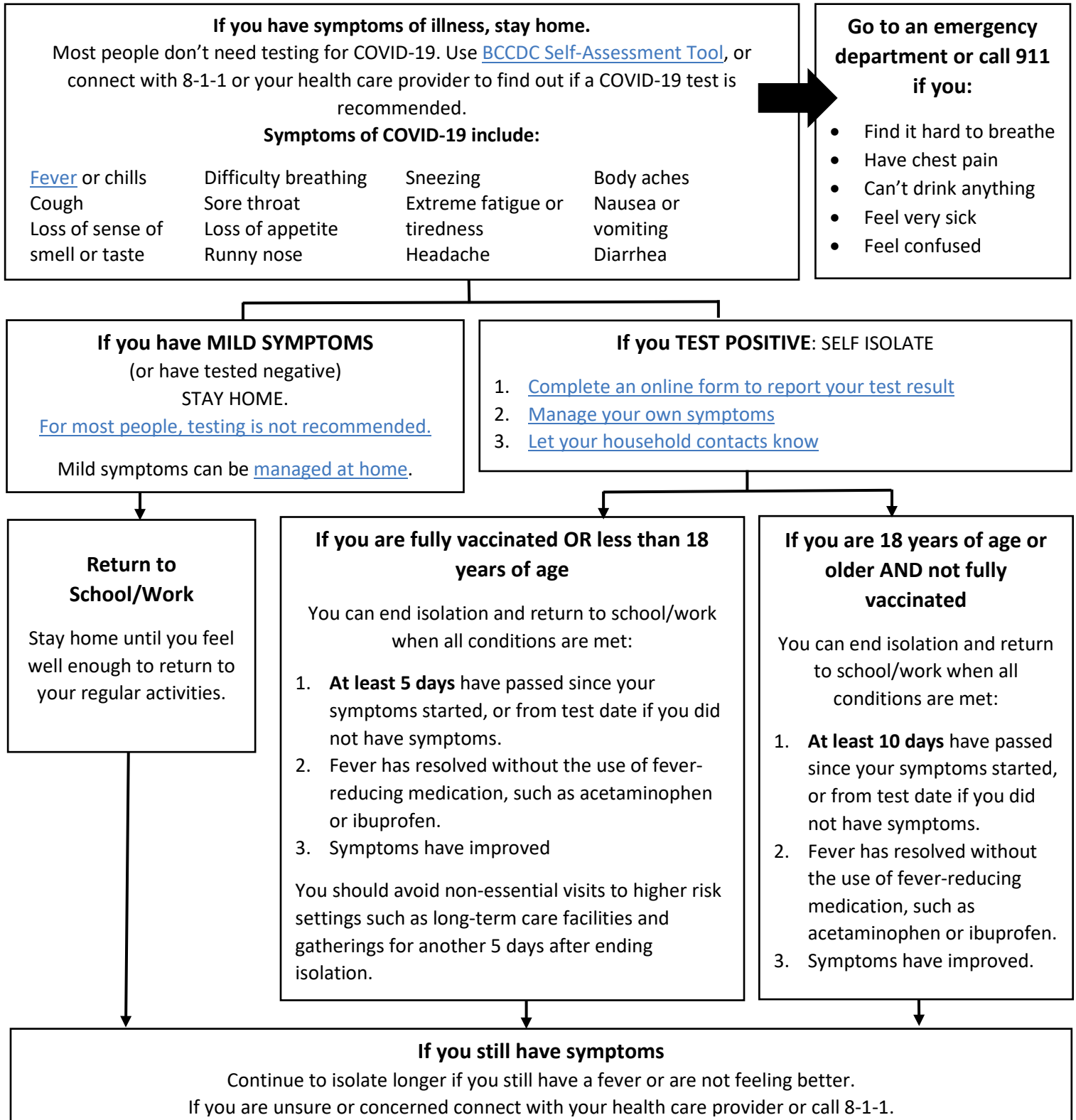
Extracurricular activities (in and out of school) and special interest clubs will occur in alignment with the guidelines in this document and requirements of **applicable** local, regional, provincial public health recommendations and Orders for community gatherings and events.

Appendix A: COVID-19 Symptoms, Testing & Return to School

When a student, staff or other adult can return to school depends on if they have tested positive for COVID-19. The table on the next page is summarized from BCCDC and is accurate as of March, 2022. Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online [Self-Assessment Tool](#), or call 8-1-1 or their health care provider when they are experiencing symptoms of illness.

BCCDC provides information about COVID-19, including what to do if a person suspects they have the virus, and what actions to take based on a [COVID-19 test result](#).

Summary: What To Do When Sick



What to do if someone is sick in your household:

You can continue to attend school if someone in your household is sick and/or self-isolating as long as you do not have any symptoms of illness and feel well. This includes if they have tested positive for COVID-19. Ensure you closely monitor yourself (or your child) for symptoms of illness and stay home if you feel unwell. The best way to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. Vaccines are available for anyone ages 5 and up. Register now at: Getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca

Appendix B: Communicable Disease Plan Orientation Checklist

This checklist is intended to support school districts and independent school authorities in planning ongoing communicable disease orientation for staff (including newly hired staff and staff who changed worksites), other adults (including volunteers and teacher candidates in practicums) and students. Orientation sessions should provide a comprehensive overview of the key principles and guidelines outlined in the resources listed below, as well as information on how these principles and guidelines will be implemented at the school level:

- [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)
- [Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)
- [WorkSafeBC Communicable Disease Prevention: A Guide for Employers](#)
- School/district communicable disease plan

Schools and school districts should ensure their Joint Health and Safety Committee is established prior to the orientation session. At the beginning of the school year **and whenever district/school communicable disease plans change**, schools/school districts are encouraged to hold Joint Health and Safety Committee meetings more frequently to help identify and address any safety concerns in a timely manner.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

- Adopt a trauma-informed approach:
 - where possible, have an employee trained in trauma-informed practice deliver some of the orientation
 - conduct needs-based assessments and regular 'check-ins' after the orientation session, and provide contact information to students/staff for requesting additional supports
 - provide information on how to access counselling services during school start up
 - for staff: consider sharing the [Building Compassionate Communities in a New Normal](#) webinar link. This free webinar developed by the Ministry of Education is intended to provide teachers, education assistants, and administrators with information, ideas and strategies that they can use to create compassionate spaces for students.
- Highlight the process used to develop the school/district plan (e.g., alignment with provincial direction, engagement at the local level) and the provincial guidelines:
 - The Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings have been developed by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the BC Centre for Disease Control, Indigenous rightsholders and education partners, including district/school leaders, teachers, support staff, and parents.

- These guidelines are based on the public health guidance developed by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control.
- Discuss the importance of implementing communicable disease prevention measures that promote equity and inclusion, and outline how these principles are reflected in the school/district plan
- Review the provincial K-12 guidelines and school/district plan, and describe what a school day will look like with the new guidelines (e.g. interactions between peers and staff, traffic flow throughout the school, transition time, recess/lunch, etc.)
- Outline how prevention and exposure control measures are being implemented in schools to ensure student and staff safety (see the [Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures](#) section for more information)
- Discuss measures for gatherings and events; provide opportunities for staff and students to put forward alternatives to continue to support events in a different format if needed (e.g., virtual events)
- Discuss preparation for potential transitions (e.g. regional public health order)
- Review school emergency and evacuation procedures (e.g., fire drill) considering relevant guidelines (see the [Emergency and Evacuation Drills](#) section for more information)
- Outline individual responsibilities (e.g., daily health check, stay home if sick, etc.) and remind everyone to do their part (e.g., practice diligent hand hygiene on a regular basis)
- Outline measures in place to support students and staff who are immune compromised
- Implement strategies to ensure staff and students who cannot attend orientation are made aware of communicable disease protocols (e.g., provide a booklet/a video on communicable disease plans)
- Provide enough time and space for staff, students and families to review the school/district communicable disease plan, ask questions, and provide input; provide contact information for any future questions that may arise
- Describe the process to address concerns and suggestions regarding the communicable disease plan (e.g., suggestions to support continuous improvement)
- Outline the process in place to assess and revise the school/district safety plan on an ongoing basis as well as how staff, students and families will be made aware of any changes in the plan
- Communicate proactively and on an ongoing basis about the changes made to policies, practices, and procedures to ensure staff, students and families are informed in a timely manner
- Provide a list of resources and links for more information (e.g., [BCCDC resources](#), [resources from the Government of Canada](#), guidelines developed by provincial associations, [Ministry-developed trauma-informed practice resources](#) or other resources such as [videos from the BC Health Emergency Services](#))

CONSIDERATIONS SPECIFIC TO STAFF

- Walk staff (administrators, teachers, teachers teaching on call, support staff, itinerant staff, etc.) through changes to communicable disease plans when they occur

- If appropriate, consider involving school staff representatives in the delivery of information pertaining to specific area of expertise
- Ensure orientation includes specific communicable disease protocols for itinerant staff and specialists (e.g., teachers teaching on call, counsellors, education assistants, teacher candidates)
- Include itinerant staff as well as on call and auxiliary staff in orientation sessions
- Implement strategies to ensure staff who work at multiple sites are made aware of communicable disease protocols in each of the sites (e.g., provide a booklet/a video on communicable disease plans for different schools)
- Share procedures and contact information in case of emergencies
- Introduce members of the Joint Health and Safety Committee or any other safety representative (along with their contact information) and outline the committee/representative's role in helping maintain a healthy and safe workplace
- Outline existing processes to address requests, concerns or accommodations related to communicable disease prevention measures.