



## SD 51 COVID-19 September 2020 Return to School Parameters and Health Guidance K-12 Settings

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with Dr. Bonnie Henry and the Ministry of Health, have recommended a full return to school. This direction is supported by Dr. Henry, BC Health and the BC CDC. **The biggest change in their recommendation is that students and staff must be in learning groups.**

“Lowering the number of in-person, close interactions continue to be a key component of B.C.’s strategy to prevent the spread of COVID-19. A learning group is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout a school term. The use of learning groups in schools allows for a significant reduction in the number of individual interactions, while allowing most students to receive in-person learning in a close-to-normal school environment.” *Ministry of Health*

Please go to the BC Ministry of Education's Restart Plan for brief and succinct details at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-education-restart-plan.pdf>

This Restart Plan also clarifies the 5 stages of BC's Return to School Plan dependent on a change in number of COVID-19 cases. As a province we will be in Stage 2 when we start school in September. However, should there be a 2nd wave or uptick in COVID-19 cases, with direction from Dr. Bonnie Henry, School Districts can pivot and readjust.

**Stage 1:** Back to normal instruction. In-class instruction provided full-time for all students in all grades. No learning group or density requirements.

### Restart

**Stage 2:** In-class instruction provided full-time for all students for the maximum time possible within established public health learning group limits:

- Elementary & Middle School: 60 people
- Secondary School: 120 people

School density targets are not applicable for this stage.

**Stage 3:** In-class instruction provided full-time for students requiring additional supports (all ages) and children of Essential Service Workers (ages 5-12)

- School Density Targets are 50% for all schools. This would mean most students not in category of ESW students and students requiring extra support would attend only twice/week.

**Stage 4:** In-class instruction provided full-time for students requiring additional supports (all ages) and children of Essential Service Workers (ages 5-12) within established public health learning group limits and school density targets:

- School Density Targets is 25% for all schools. This would mean most students not in category of ESW students and students requiring extra support would attend school one day/week.

**Stage 5:** Complete suspension of in-class instruction. All instruction is done remotely.

Based on direction from Dr. Bonnie Henry and Ministry of Health, SD51 has developed guidelines to best ensure a safe September return for all students to schools.

### **School Organization**

All schools will maintain their regular Pre-COVID start and end times. However, both BCSS and GFSS will have 30-minute lunch hours with added break times. BCSS and GFSS will also switch from a semester system to quarter system to further reduce potential for physical contact. The quarter system has two (2) courses per quarter for a 10-week period.

All elementary schools will have student learning groups of no larger than two (2) classes.

Before and after school procedures for students will be established with the goal of entry and exit close to school bell schedules. Parents dropping or picking up their children are asked to do so as close to school bell times as possible. Members of the public, including parents of students, must make appointments or receive an invitation to enter school sites.

Bussing schedules will be similar to Pre-COVID schedules. There may be slight adjustments so please refer to our website at: <https://www.sd51.bc.ca/our-district/transportation/>

Your child must be registered on bus route to use the bus. Students must ride the bus they are registered on during Stage 2 to ensure COVID 19 protocols are followed. Unregistered riders will not be permitted, and alternate drop-offs will not be permitted for registered riders.

### **Students Not Returning to School**

There are a variety of reasons students may not return to school in September. **The Minister of Education has made it clear that school districts are to create in-class learning opportunities as their priority and that teachers will not be expected to provide remote learning opportunities.** Our goal, therefore, is to maximize student return to our schools and with that mandate in place, ALL of our personnel (teachers, educational assistants, etc..) have been employed as in-class educators.

**In SD51, we do not have a Distance Learning program.** Our ability to support students NOT returning to in-school (*bricks and mortar*) learning is very limited; however, alternate learning support will be provided for the following students:

1. Any student who cannot attend school because they are immunocompromised **as supported by doctor's note**
2. Grade 10, 11 and 12 students registered for in-class learning who require courses to graduate and cannot get them because of timetable restrictions (related to COVID 19 restructuring)

We will review our capacity to provide an online alternative for all other K to 12 students after our September start.

If in-school enrollment is low, we may be able to free up teaching staff for an online alternative before the end of September.

If in-school enrollment is high, it is unlikely we will be able to provide an alternative to in-school learning.

**All school-age children in BC are required to be registered in an educational program. If your child will not be returning to bricks and mortar learning with SD51, you can register with one of the following alternatives:**

- Register for Homeschooling - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/classroom-alternatives/homeschooling>
- Register for Distributed Learning - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/classroom-alternatives/online-distributed-learning>

## **COVID-19 K-12 Controls**

SD51 has developed specific controls to ensure students, staff and the public are safe in all SD51 facilities. It is expected that staff, students and community will abide by these procedures and guidelines.

Dr. Bonnie Henry has reassured British Columbians that BC has done an admirable job in managing the COVID-19 virus. Based on our data as well as data from countries that have successfully flattened the curve and successfully opened schools, the Provincial Health Officer has determined it is a relatively low risk for BC to open schools. The BC CDC and Ministry of Health feel that we can safely return to full-time schooling but with explicit expectations of student and staff conduct and the implementation of learning groups.

## **Why Can Students Return to School?**

- Based on the data collected by BC Ministry of Health, the COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children and youth. (ages 0-19)
- In BC less than 1% of children tested have been COVID-19 positive, and even fewer are suspected to have been infected based on serological testing. Most children are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection.
- Children under 10 comprise a smaller proportion of the total confirmed child cases compared to children between the ages of 10 and 19.
- Based on published literature to date, most cases in children are the result of household transmission by droplet spread from a symptomatic adult family member with COVID-19.
- Even in family clusters, adults appear to be the primary drivers of transmission.
- Children who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 can still receive in-person instruction. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to consult with their health-care provider to determine their child's level of risk.
- Children typically have much milder symptoms of COVID-19, if any.

## **COVID-19 and Schools**

- Children do not appear to be the primary drivers of COVID-19 spread in schools or in community settings.
- Schools and childcare facility closures have significant negative mental health and socioeconomic impacts on vulnerable children.
- Infection prevention measures are most effective in controlled environments with predictable populations and expectations that are readily monitored. **Schools are controlled environments.**
- Children and youth typically have much milder symptoms of COVID-19, most often presenting with low-grade fever and a dry cough. GI symptoms are more common for children while skin changes and lesions are less common.
- There is no conclusive evidence that children who are asymptomatic or even symptomatic pose a risk to transmitting the disease to other children or adults.

- Evidence indicates most cases in children are the result of household transmission by droplet spread from symptomatic adult family members.
- Clusters and outbreaks involving children and youth are unusual and tend only to occur in areas where there are high levels of community spread.
- Long term closures of schools can have significant effect on a students' academic, social and emotional well being.
- Adolescent children should physically distance themselves where possible when outside the family unit or household.
- For younger children, maintaining physical distance is less practical and the focus should be on minimizing physical contact instead.

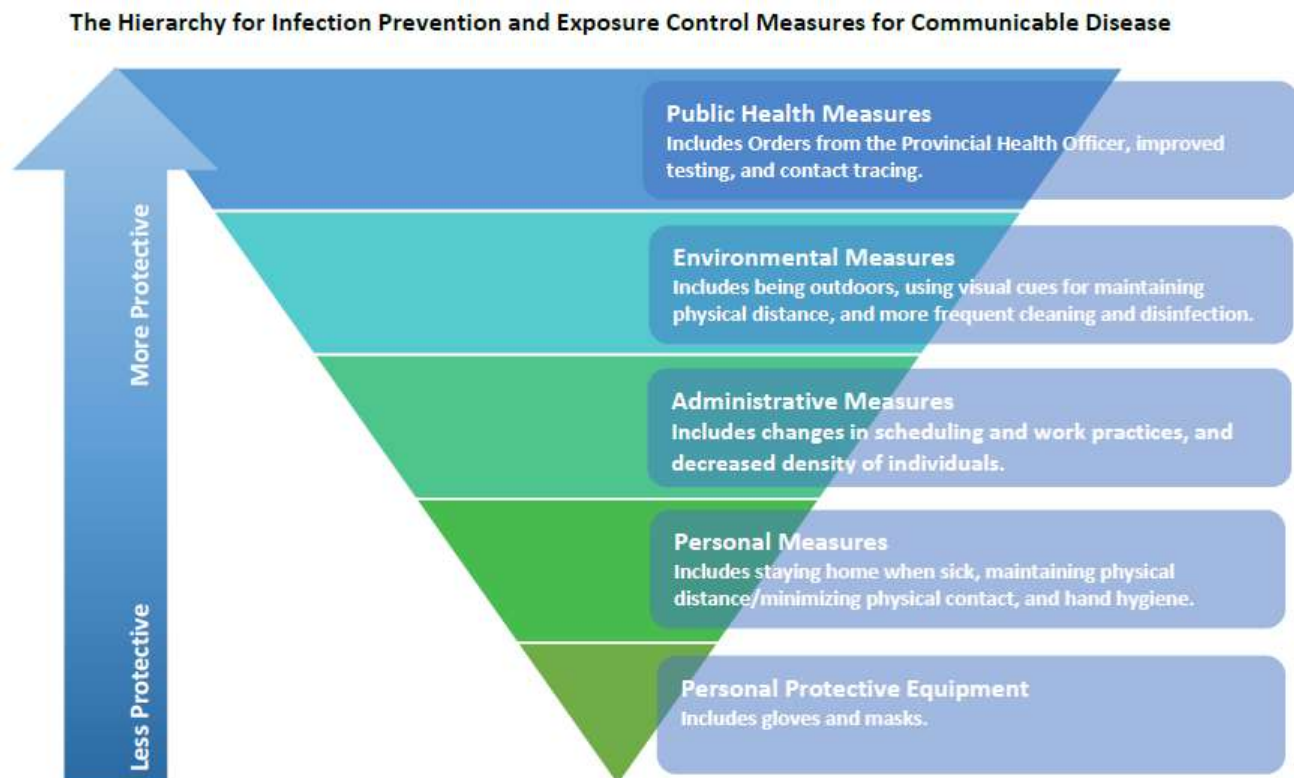
## **COVID-19 and Adults**

- While COVID-19 impacts adults more than children, some adults with specific health circumstances are at an increased risk for more severe outcomes, including individuals:
  - Aged 65 and over,
  - With compromised immune systems, or
  - With underlying medical conditions.
- Most adults infected with COVID-19 will have mild symptoms that do not require medical care outside of the home.

Please check BC CDC site for more information on Health Guidance for BC Schools K-12:

[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID\\_public\\_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf)

## **Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures**



Infection prevention and exposure control measures help create a safe environment for students and staff. Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease describes measures that can be taken to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. 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 substantially reduced.

Personal Protective Equipment is the last and least effective of the infection prevention and exposure control measure and should only be considered after exploring all other measures. **However non-medical masks should be used when physical distancing cannot be consistently maintained, or the person is interacting with people outside their learning group.** Wearing a non-medical mask or face covering is a personal choice. It is important to treat people wearing masks with respect. More information on mask usage can be found here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/masks>

### **Public Health Measures**

Mass Gatherings - the Provincial Health Officer's Order for Mass Gatherings continues to prohibit gatherings and events of people in excess of 50 people; **however, this Order does not apply to schools.**

If a COVID-19 positive person is identified as a staff member or student in a school, public health will work with school administration to determine what actions should be taken, including if any staff or students have been in contact with that person need to self-isolate and if other staff or students should be notified.

**Schools will not provide notification to staff or students' families if a staff member or student becomes ill at home or at school, including if they display symptoms of COVID-19, unless directed by public health.**  
**Contacting parents and staff about COVID-19 is the responsibility of public health.**

Students and staff with cold, influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms should be encouraged to stay home, self-isolate and be addressed by a health care provider. Testing is recommended for anyone with a cold, influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms, even mild ones.

**Students and staff who have travelled outside of Canada are required to self-isolate for 14 days under both provincial and federal orders.**

### **Environmental Measures Cleaning and Disinfection**

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing 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, which includes:

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises at least once every 24 hours.
  - This includes single use items like individual desks.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces at least twice every 24 hours.
  - Frequently touched surfaces include doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks & chairs used by multiple students, keyboards and toys.
- Cleaning and disinfecting any surface that is visibly dirty.
- Use of Oxiver, a hydrogen peroxide-based disinfectant approved by the BC CDC.
- Use of 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.

- Garbage containers emptied daily.
- Traffic flow – use directional floor markings and specify learning groups entrances and learning groups transition times to manage traffic flow in a school. DO NOT limit emergency exits.
- Physical barriers – when a person is interacting with individuals outside their learning group (i.e. secretaries), then physical barriers like plexiglass or face shields 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.**

### **Administrative Measures**

Reducing the number of in-person, close interactions an individual has in a day with different people helps prevent the spread of COVID-19. To accomplish this schools will implement learning groups and where learning groups must share space then physical distancing is required. If this is not possible, then masks must be worn by individuals outside the learning groups.

### **Learning Groups or Cohorts**

Learning Groups or Cohorts reduce the number of individual contacts in a day without physical distancing being consistently practiced. Potential outbreaks can be more efficiently and effectively managed when learning groups size restrictions are implemented.

### **Information on Learning Groups (as defined by WorkSafe BC)**

- *A learning group is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout a school term. Learning groups reduce the number of in-person, close interactions a person has in school without requiring physical distancing to consistently be practiced. For example:*
  - *In elementary, a learning group can be composed of up to 60 people.*
  - *In secondary schools, a learning group can be composed of up to 120 people. this learning group is larger because this age group is more capable of consistently minimizing physical contact, practicing good hygiene and ensuring physical distancing.*
  - *Learning groups can be composed of students and staff.*
- *Within the learning groups, minimized physical contact should be encouraged but a 2-metre physical distance does not need to be maintained.*
- *Learning group composition can be changed at the start of a new quarter, semester or term in the school year. Outside of these, composition should be changed as minimally as possible, except where required to support optimal school functioning. This may include learning, operational, or student health and safety considerations.*
- *Consistent seating arrangements are encouraged within learning groups where practical.*
- *School administrators should keep up-to-date lists of all members of a learning group to share with public health should contact tracing need to occur.*
- *During break times (e.g., recess, lunch), students may want to socialize with peers in different learning groups:*
  - *In elementary schools, students can socialize with peers in different learning groups if they are outdoors and can minimize physical contact or if they are indoors and can maintain physical distance.*
  - *In secondary schools, students can socialize with peers in different learning groups if they can maintain physical distance. Students must maintain physical distance when socializing with peers in different learning groups.*

- *Students from different learning groups may be required to be together to receive beneficial social supports, programs, or services (e.g., meal programs, after school clubs, etc.). Within these supports or services, it is expected that learning groups and physical distance are maintained as much as possible while still ensuring the support, program, or service continues. This does not apply to extracurricular activities where physical distance between learning groups must be maintained.*

**Within a learning group, minimized physical contact should still be encouraged, but physical distancing does NOT need to be maintained. Learning groups should stay consistent for learning and breaks.**

**Fieldtrips** – fieldtrips can still happen but only in learning groups.

**Extracurriculars** – cannot happen at this time as playing teams outside a school diminishes the effectiveness of a controlled environment.

**Physical distancing and maintaining 2-meters between two or more people is challenging in a K-12 school setting, particularly with younger students. As such, it is reasonable to establish different expectations for varying age levels and activities.**

Younger students, (Gr K-7) should be supported through a respectful expectation that they have minimized physical contact with one another, while older students (Gr 8-12) and adults should seek to maintain a safe physical distance whenever possible.

The following physical distancing strategies will be implemented where possible in the K-12 school setting:

- Avoid close greetings (e.g. hugs, handshakes). Regular reminders and encouragement to students about keeping their “hands to yourself”.
- Consider different classroom and learning environment configurations to allow distance between students and adults (e.g. different desk and table formations).
- Non-enrolling staff (LST, PREP teachers, EAs, CYCWs, Principals) who are responsible for more than one learning group must physically distance and if unable to physically distance MUST wear a mask and if they wish to a face shield. A person can attach themselves to one learning group and then must physically distance or wear a mask ONLY if they join another learning group.
- Stagger recess/snack, lunch and class transition times to provide a greater amount of space for everyone.
- Ensure learning groups are sent to different outdoor areas to play or muster.
- Take students outside more often for learning activities.
- Planning learning group *non-contact* sports activities should be organized in a thoughtful way, taking into consideration personal measures.
- Outdoor activities, including playground play, are safe as long as all participants are encouraged to do appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play.
- It is encouraged that facilities like gyms and weight rooms are still used. Teachers choosing to use these spaces must follow the SD51 Cleaning Guidelines.
- Incorporate more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between students and staff.
- For younger students, adapt group activities to minimize physical contact and reduce shared items. Considerations for toys and manipulatives:
  - Individual packaging of toys or manipulatives (i.e. Numeracy learning manipulatives packaged in Ziploc bags for individual or small groups)
  - Fewer toys in a classroom
  - Toys less accessible and possibly placed in bins

- NO soft toys or stuffies
- At minimum, any class toy and/or manipulative should be used ONLY by members of the class
- For adolescent students, minimize group activities and avoid activities that require physical contact.
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways. Staggered times of transition amongst learning groups and directional arrows.
- Parents, caregivers and other non-staff adults entering the school must not enter school without permission or an invite.
- All school members as well as visitors should be reminded to practice diligent hand hygiene and maintain physical distance when they are in the school. Schools should have a sign in sheet to keep track of dates, names and contact information of all visitors.
- Assemblies and other school-wide events should be held virtually or in learning groups to avoid having large numbers of people gathered in one space.

### **Student Transportation on Buses**

Buses used for transporting students should be cleaned and disinfected according to the guidance provided. Please check BC CDC site for more information on Health Guidance for BC Schools K-12:

[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID\\_public\\_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf)

Additional measures should be taken, including:

- **Encouraging private vehicle use where possible to decrease transportation density.** Bus drivers will wear a face shield and mask when students are entering or exiting the bus.
- Students are expected to sit in their assigned seating.
- Seats are loaded from back to front and offloaded from front to back.
- Students from the same household or learning groups should share seats if space is limited.
- **Students age 10-19 must wear a non-surgical mask when on the bus.** They may wear their own mask, or one will be provided by the bus driver. Students will not be required to wear a mask if they have a medical condition that prevents them from doing so.
- School district bus drivers should keep an up-to-date passenger manifest should contact tracing need to occur. They will check off names of riders and submit this to Nicole Reid at Board Office weekly.

### **Curriculum, Programs and Activities**

It is important to student health and well-being that Fine Arts and other elective courses are available throughout each COVID-19 stage. Schools should find ways to continue these courses in creative ways.

Shared equipment should be cleaned and disinfected as per Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidelines:

[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting\\_PublicSettings.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf)

**Staff teaching courses with special health and safety considerations including Foods, Textiles, Technology Ed, ADST, Music, Science, PE and Work Experience must refer to these guidelines:**

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>

Food Services and Textiles – p.25

Music & PE– p.27

ADST & Science – p.29

Technology Ed, Theatre & Dance – p.30

Work Experience – p.31



## **Students Requiring Additional Supports**

### **Students with Complex Medical Conditions**

Parents of students who are immune-compromised or have underlying medical conditions are encouraged to consult with their health care provider to determine their level of risk regarding return to school. If a medical professional determines that a student cannot attend school due to their health risks, the school district will work with the family to review alternative learning options for the student.

- Students who need to stay at home because they are immune-compromised will have an at-home learning plan provided by their school district
- This may include providing assistive technologies to help students learn remotely

Review COVID-19 and children with immune suppression information from the BC CDC.

### **Students with Exceptionalities and Children in Care**

Students who require additional supports will have access to and receive the same supports and services they had prior to the pandemic.

- The way supports are provided at school may look different than the past, but all students will have access to learning in school and the necessary supports to be successful. We will continue to maintain an inclusive learning model.

## **Personal Measures**

### ***Stay Home When Sick***

- All students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 OR travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days OR were identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate, including children of essential service workers who are ill.
- **Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory diseases before sending them to school. If a child has symptoms they must not go to the school.** Parents are NOT to send students to school with any of these symptoms and will be called to pick up their child should staff note them during a school day. **WE MUST be very strict on this protocol.**
- Staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school. **If staff have symptoms, they must not enter the school.**
- School Principals must ensure school staff are aware of their responsibility to assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory diseases prior to entering the school.
  - Students and staff may still attend school if a member of their household has a cold, influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms, provided the staff or student is asymptomatic. It is expected a symptomatic household member is seeking assessment by a healthcare provider.
  - Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19 like symptoms related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal.
- **School Principals must clearly communicate with parents and caregivers their responsibility to assess their children daily before sending them to school.**
- Establish procedures for students and staff who become sick while at school to be sent home as soon as possible.

- Those unsure if they or a student should self-isolate, should be directed to use the [BC COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool](#).
- If concerned, they can be advised to contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further input or to contact a family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory diseases.
- **There is no role for staff of SD51 to screen students or staff for symptoms, checking temperatures, or COVID-19 testing. Such activities are reserved for health care professionals.**

## **Washing Hands**

- Wash hands with plain soap and water (water temperature does not change effectiveness) for at least 20 seconds is one of the most effective control measures. Antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19.
- If sinks are not available (e.g. students and staff are outdoors), use alcohol-based hand rub containing at least 60% alcohol.
- If hands are visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand rub may not be effective at eliminating respiratory viruses. Soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly dirty.
- To learn about how to perform hand hygiene, please refer to the [BCCDC's hand washing poster](#).
- Encourage hand washing or sanitizing upon arrival at school. Place hand washing stations in various locations including school entrances, hallways, and classrooms to encourage appropriate hand hygiene throughout the day.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers where sinks are not available and posters to promote the importance of regular hand washing.
- Regularly remind staff and students about the importance of diligent hand hygiene.
- Incorporate additional hand hygiene opportunities into the daily schedule.
- 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.

Please check BCCDC site for more information on Health Guidance for BC Schools K-12:

[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID\\_public\\_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf)

## **SD51 Elementary and Secondary Controls and Protocols**

### **These must be adhered to for safety of all individuals at school sites**

#### **Elementary**

#### **Movement/Hygiene On-Site**

- Students should clean their hands for 20 seconds with soap or hand sanitizer (with at least 60-70% alcohol) **BEFORE** leaving their home or leaving the bus. **Parents dropping or picking up their children are asked to do so as close to school bell times as possible.**
- Upon arrival at school, students are expected to follow the school's protocol on where to muster and wait for their teacher. Individual school protocols will be communicated to parents and will include learning group measures.
- In elementary schools, teachers will meet their students at muster stations. Then teachers will guide their students to the exterior door of their classroom. If they do not have an exterior classroom door, they will enter through one of the main entrance doors closest to their classroom.

- Upon entry, students will maintain minimal physical distancing and patiently wait to clean their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water OR hand sanitizer.
- Students will be assigned seating. These seats are the only place students sit unless otherwise directed by the teacher.
- Student backpacks and jackets will be placed beside their seats (unless the teacher directs students to do otherwise). **Students will not have access to lockers to start the school year.**
- **If students transition to other parts of the building, they will do so only with teacher permission.** When students travel throughout the building, they must follow directional arrows on the floor and maintain physical distancing according to horizontal 2-metre increment taped lines.
- Anytime a student transitions inside or outside the building, uses the bathroom, sneezes or touches items that have potentially been touched by others, they must clean their hands for 20 seconds (sing Happy Birthday 2X).
- Students are required to clean their hands before they leave for the end of the day and before they leave home to come to school.

## Structural

- Schools will have directional arrows and 2-metre incremental lines to maintain physical distancing.
- **Learning groups will have staggered lunches & breaks.** Students will be monitored by a district employee. Teachers are not on duty during lunch, unless there is a safety issue in which the Principal may direct teachers to help cover lunch break.
- Learning groups will be directed to specific areas outside the school to play to reduce cross socialization.
- Lockers will not be available. Students must bring all belongings in their backpack including supplies, lunch and a water bottle filled with water until which time this is re-evaluated.
- Students should not share food, water bottles, personal items etc.
- Students supplies/equipment should be labelled with their full name. These CAN be left at the student's workstation.
- Students are NOT to share personal items like stuffies.
- There will be washrooms assigned to learning cohorts.
- No more than one student will be allowed in a washroom at a time. Students will line up 2-metres apart. Spacing dots will be installed. A green/red – stop/go marker will be placed on the floor of each washroom. RED indicates IT IS NOT OPEN. Students must obey this sign.
- Water fountains will not be available; *however, water fillers will be.* Students and staff should bring water bottles to school preferably filled.
- It is recommended that Prep teachers supporting multiple cohorts provide Prep time in the Regular teachers' classroom.
- Staff must physically distance in staff rooms unless from same learning groups
- **Parents and guardians are asked to drop off their students and only enter the building if they have made an appointment or invited to attend a meeting at the school.** Please do not enter classrooms.

## Cleaning

- High touch areas like doorknobs will be disinfected twice every 24 hours on school days.
- There will be a full clean at the end of each school day.
- Each class with a sink and running water will have soap and paper towels to dry hands. Classes without running water will have hand sanitizer. People should clean hands for minimum of 20 seconds. (Happy Birthday 2X)

- Larger schools will have a hydrogen peroxide mister terminal cleaner. This device sprays all surfaces efficiently and ensures all surfaces (nooks and crannies) are covered. The liquid hydrogen peroxide disinfectant solution kills all virus within 5 minutes – allow to dry to be most effective. All schools have manual misting units.
- All classes will be provided with a spray bottle of hydrogen peroxide so teachers can spray high touch surfaces. Teachers or EA's should spray on surfaces and let dry to be most effective.
- Teachers are responsible to ensure instructional items (i.e. manipulatives, toys) are cleaned as required. Learning groups, small group work and placing manipulatives into Ziploc bags will reduce the urgency of cleaning instructional items.
- Students should clean their hands before and after activities.

***We anticipate a learning curve for elementary students especially those who did not return in June regarding social distancing, especially younger students. We ask staff to recognize that reinforcing physical distancing should not be the focus, rather the focus is minimizing student contact in a kind and respectful way. We recognize this will be challenging but we must consistently remind ourselves that there is little evidence that students transmit the virus. It is ok to structure small group interactions. It is recommended that students who are grouped play/work in the same small groups through the day. It is also recommended that teachers and EA's reinforce a hands-off policy. (no touching others, hugging or tag)***

## **Secondary**

### **Movement/Hygiene On-Site**

- Students will enter the building through one of the exterior doors assigned by learning groups to reduce the density of students entering the building. This will be communicated by the school Principal to students and parents.
- Students will clean their hands *immediately* upon entry to the building at the hand sanitizing or mobile hand cleaning station.
- Students will maintain minimal spacing outside while waiting to enter. Upon entry to the building students will head directly to their first class following directional arrows on the floor while maintaining physical distancing.
- Upon arrival to their classroom, students will be directed to their designated seats.
- Student backpacks will be placed beside their seats unless the teacher directs students to do otherwise.
- **Students will not have access to lockers during this time.** This will be revisited later into the school year.
- If students transition to other parts of the building, they will only do so with teacher permission and a **HALL PASS indicating who their teacher is.**
- **No more than one student will be allowed out of class any class to go to the bathroom.** The Principal will designate bathrooms and usage protocols (i.e. # of students in a bathroom at once).
- When students travel throughout the building, they must follow directional arrows on the floor and maintain physical distancing according to the horizontal 2-metre taped lines.
- If class transitions include more than one cohort in hallways or common areas, then both staff and students in the transition should wear masks.
- Anytime a student transitions inside the building or outside, uses the bathroom, sneezes or touches items touched by others, they must clean their hands.
- Students are asked to clean their hands as they exit the school.
- **Parents/Guardians/Community Members are NOT to enter the school building.** They must call and make an appointment.

## Structural

- Schools will have directional arrows and 2-metre incremental lines to maintain physical distancing.
- **Learning groups of classes will have staggered lunches & breaks.**
- **Physical contact will not be tolerated.**
- **Lockers will not be available.** Students must bring all belongings in a backpack, including all supplies, snacks and water bottles (preferably filled) .
- Students are NOT to share personal items.
- Water fountains will not be available; *however, water fillers will be.* Students and staff should bring water bottles to school preferably filled.
- Staff must physically distance in staff rooms unless from same learning groups.
- Parents and guardians are asked to drop off their students and only enter the building if they have made an appointment with the school or received an invite to the school.

## Cleaning

- High touch areas like doorknobs will be disinfected at least twice per day by custodians.
- There will be a major cleaning at the end of the school day.
- GFSS and BCSS will have a hydrogen peroxide mister terminal cleaner. This device sprays all surfaces efficiently and ensures all surfaces are covered. The liquid hydrogen peroxide kills all viruses within 5 minutes – allow to dry to be most effective.
- Each class with a sink and running water will have soap and paper towels to dry hands. Classes without running water will have hand sanitizer.
- All classes will be provided with a spray bottle of hydrogen peroxide so teachers can spray high touch surfaces. Teachers or EA's should spray surfaces and let dry to be most effective.

**There is a high expectation for students to follow these strict guidelines. Students who wilfully do NOT comply will be sent home.**

## Bussing Safety Protocols 2020

### **Bus Driver Protection:**

- Using facility procedure protocols when coming to the bus garage.
- Using recommended hygiene procedures.
- Cleaning supplies
  - Drivers each have their own spray bottle and rags stored in a secure location in the bus
  - Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after using all shared cleaning supplies
- Personal Measures: maintaining physical distance, use of face shields if requested, use masks or bandanas, washing or hand sanitizing your hands frequently, practicing appropriate coughing/sneezing etiquette, and staying at home if you are sick.

### **Students Protection:**

- Use hand sanitizer at the entrances to the buses before getting on the bus.
- Place numbered stickers on the seats indicating where students can sit.
- Students seats will be staggered down the rows if possible.
- **Students age 10-19 MUST wear a non-surgical mask when on the bus.** They may wear their own mask, or one will be provided by the bus driver. Students will not be required to wear a mask if they have a medical condition that prevents them from doing so.

- **Students MUST be registered to a bus route to ride that bus.**
- Students will remain in their seats and remain in their designated space.
- High touch points are disinfected by driver in between each run.
- Entire bus is wiped down and cleaned with a disinfectant at the end of the day.
- No eating anything on the bus
- Parents must do a symptom check before students get on bus. If there are any potential COVID symptoms, then please keep your child at home.
- Should a student younger than 9 years exhibit COVID 19 symptoms on the bus, they will be asked to wear a mask. Bus drivers will let school personnel know there is a concern.
- Bus drivers will document who rode the bus weekly and submit this manifest to Nicole Reid at SBO.

### **Loading and Unloading:**

- Students will be asked to stand on spacing dots in a line when loading from the school.
- One student at top of stairwell, before next student boards.
- Students load rear to front, working their way forward filling seats in order to avoid passing other students on the bus.
- Unload from the front first, working their way backwards in order to avoid passing other students on the bus.
- When transferring between schools everyone will unload from the bus, the bus will be sprayed with disinfectant from back to the front and the next group will board from the back to the front.
- Once unloaded the students will follow the school's protocols.

### **Procedure Around Riding the Bus and If Not Following Safety Protocols:**

- Clearly communicate with parents and caregivers, their responsibility to assess their children daily before sending them to school.
  - If a child displays any signs or symptoms of what could be influenza or COVID-19, they may not ride the school bus.
- If not following the safety protocols of sending healthy students, practicing safe hygiene or other items listed above, students will have their privilege of riding the bus revoked.

(SD51 Director of Operations, May 22, 2020)

**As an employee of SD51 you should to be aware of COVID 19 WorkSafe regulations. While you are aware of your responsibilities and rights in normal times, it is important to be aware of them in these unprecedented times as well. Please take the time to review WorkSafeBC COVID-19 'Returning to Safe Operation' guidelines below:**



<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/education>

## Appendix A: Summary of School-Based Control Measures



### 1. STAY HOME WHEN SICK

*All students and staff with common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory diseases must stay home and self-isolate.*



### 2. HAND HYGIENE

*Everyone should clean their hands more often!*

*Thorough hand washing with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness.*



### 3. RESPIRATORY AND PERSONAL HYGIENE

*Cover your coughs.*

*Do not touch your face.*

*No sharing of food, drinks, or personal items.*



### 4. PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND MINIMIZING PHYSICAL CONTACT

*Spread students and staff out to different areas when possible.*

*Take students outside more often.*

*Stagger break and transition times. Incorporate individual activities.*

*Remind students to keep their hands to themselves.*



### 5. CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

*Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least twice every 24 hours (once during the school day).*

*General cleaning of the school should occur at least once a day.*

*Use common cleaning and disinfectant products.*



## Appendix B: Daily Health Check Example

The following can be used as an example of a tool that can be used for parents and caregivers to complete prior to their child coming to school. It should be adapted if used for school staff and visitors.

Daily Health Check			
1. Symptoms of Illness*	Does your child have any of the following symptoms?	CIRCLE ONE	
	Fever	YES	NO
	Chills	YES	NO
	Cough or worsening of chronic cough	YES	NO
	Shortness of breath	YES	NO
	Sore throat	YES	NO
	Runny nose / stuffy nose	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of smell or taste	YES	NO
	Headache	YES	NO
	Fatigue	YES	NO
	Diarrhea	YES	NO
	Loss of appetite	YES	NO
	Nausea and vomiting	YES	NO
	Muscle aches	YES	NO
	Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	YES	NO
	Dizziness, confusion	YES	NO
Abdominal pain	YES	NO	
Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes	YES	NO	
2. International Travel	Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Are you or is anyone in your household a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	YES	NO

\*Check BCCDC's [Symptoms of COVID-19](#) regularly to ensure the list is up to date.

If you answered "YES" to any of the questions and the symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies) your child should **NOT** come to school.

If they are experiencing any symptoms of illness, contact a health-care provider for further assessment. This includes 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.

If you answered "YES" to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if you should be tested for COVID-19.





## Appendix C: What to Do if a Student or Staff Member Develops Symptoms

<i>If a Student Develops Any Symptoms of Illness</i>	<i>If a Staff Member Develops Any Symptoms of Illness</i>
<p><b>Parents or caregivers must keep the student at home</b></p> <p><b>IF STUDENT DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL:</b></p> <p><b>Staff must take the following steps:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Immediately separate the symptomatic student from others in a supervised area.</li> <li>2. Contact the student’s parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible.</li> <li>3. Where possible, maintain a 2-metre distance from the ill student. If not possible, staff should wear a non-medical mask or face covering if available and tolerated, or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth.</li> <li>4. Provide the student with a non-medical mask or tissues to cover their coughs or sneezes. Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene.</li> <li>5. Avoid touching the student’s body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva). If you do, practice diligent hand hygiene.</li> <li>6. Once the student is picked up, practice diligent hand hygiene.</li> <li>7. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated and any areas recently used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).</li> </ol> <p>Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.</p>	<p><b>Staff must stay home</b></p> <p><b>IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT WORK:</b></p> <p><b>Staff should go home as soon as possible.</b></p> <p>If unable to leave immediately:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Symptomatic staff should separate themselves into an area away from others.</li> <li>2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.</li> <li>3. Use a tissue or mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait to be picked up.</li> <li>4. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the staff member was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).</li> </ol>
<p>The threshold for reporting student and/or staff illness to public health should be determined in consultation with the school medical health officer</p>	
<p><b>Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should not return to school until they have been assessed by a health-care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved</b></p>	

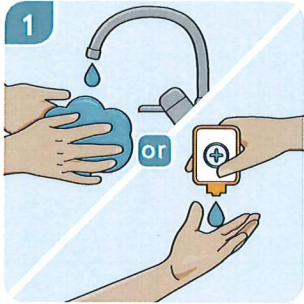


## Appendix D: When to Perform Hand Hygiene at School

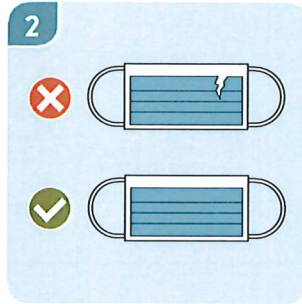
When Students Should Perform Hand Hygiene:	When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When they arrive at school.</li><li>• Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).</li><li>• Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk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



# Help prevent the spread of COVID-19: How to use a mask



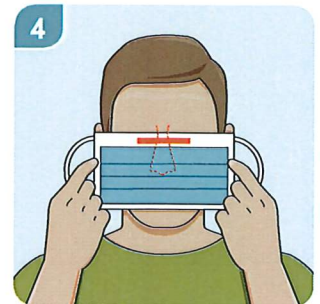
1 Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before touching the mask. If you don't have soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



2 Inspect the mask to ensure it's not damaged.



3 Turn the mask so the coloured side is facing outward.



4 Put the mask over your face and if there is a metallic strip, press it to fit the bridge of your nose



5 Put the loops around each of your ears, or tie the top and bottom straps.



6 Make sure your mouth and nose are covered and there are no gaps. Expand the mask by pulling the bottom of it under your chin.



7 Press the metallic strip again so it moulds to the shape of your nose, and wash your hands again.



8 Don't touch the mask while you're wearing it. If you do, wash your hands.



9 Don't wear the mask if it gets wet or dirty. Don't reuse the mask. Follow correct procedure for removing the mask.

## Removing the mask



1 Wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



2 Lean forward to remove your mask. Touch only the ear loops or ties, not the front of the mask.



3 Dispose of the mask safely.



4 Wash your hands. If required, follow the procedure for putting on a new mask.

Note: Graphics adapted from BC Centre for Disease Control (BC Ministry of Health), "How to wear a face mask."

# Appendix: Prioritizing Health and Safety – Flow Charts

There is a suite of measures that can be implemented in school settings to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. These flow charts have been developed to assist school districts and independent school authorities in navigating the layered approach of environmental and administrative measures available to schools (e.g. organizing students/staff in learning groups, maintaining physical distance, enhancing cleaning and disinfecting protocols, using outdoor space for learning activities, implementing staggered schedules, reinforcing effective personal practices such as diligent hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, implementing robust illness policies for students and staff).

School districts and independent school authorities should ensure that all options for the highest level of measures have been exhausted before moving to the next level. **All decisions should be made to prioritize health and safety and in consideration of the best interest of students.**

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR STAFF

Schools should minimize the number of staff who interact with learning groups they are not a part of as much as possible while continuing to support learning and a positive, healthy and safe environment. The following flow chart outlines the considerations to assign staff to a learning group and the steps to take when a staff cannot be assigned to a learning group.

1. Can the staff member be assigned to a learning group?

Consider learning group size limits, nature of staff's role and responsibilities, and student needs.

2. If no, can the staff member fulfill their duties while maintaining physical distancing (2m)?

Consider reconfiguring rooms or securing an alternate space.

3. If no, can environmental measures be implemented?

Consider installing a physical barrier made of transparent materials, or having the staff member provide remote/virtual services.

**4. If none of the measures outlined above can be implemented,** the staff member is required to wear PPE (e.g. non-medical mask, face covering, or face shield + mask).

This could include a specialist teacher or an EA who must work in close physical proximity to students in multiple learning groups, or a TTOC.



## INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Schools and school districts are required to deliver the full breadth of provincial curriculum as outlined in the [Expectations for Each Stage](#). The following flow chart outlines considerations for schools and school districts when planning instructional delivery to students in secondary schools.

1. Organize students and staff into learning groups, considering the following:
  - a. Can “natural learning groups” be identified through analysis of student enrolment data (students taking the same core subjects and/or electives)?
  - b. Which courses or programs could be delivered using physical distancing (based on the required learning environment and available space relative to number of students enrolled), and can therefore be excluded from learning group considerations<sup>1</sup>?

2. Create timetables including “in-learning group” and “cross-learning group” classes
  - a. “In-learning group” class = all students are from the same learning group; students must minimize physical contact
  - b. “Cross-learning group” class = students are from different learning groups; students must maintain physical distance (2m)

3. Supplement in-class instruction with self-directed or remote learning for those courses/programs that cannot be accommodated via learning group or physical distancing approaches.

- Requiring students to wear masks during class is not an acceptable alternative to the use of learning groups or physical distancing.

<sup>1</sup> Within learning groups, minimizing physical contact is the rule. Consider focusing application of learning groups on subject areas that cannot be delivered using physical distancing strategies.

