

SD69 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN

Infection prevention and exposure control measures (also called communicable disease measures or health and safety measures) help create safe environments by reducing the spread of communicable diseases like COVID19. These are more effective in settings such as schools where there is a relatively consistent grouping of people and multiple measures of various effectiveness can be routinely implemented. The following is an outline of SD69 district communicable disease plan for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. This plan is subject to change based on relevant local, regional, Provincial and Federal health recommendations and is guided by the [B.C. Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

Public Health Measures	
Attendance & Record Keeping	<p>Maintain daily attendance records for staff and students using the technology-based platforms used pre pandemic.</p> <p>Schools can 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 visitors for communicable disease prevention purposes.</p> <p>Maintain accurate class and bus lists (seating arrangements are not required).</p>
Environmental Measures	
Ventilation and Air Exchange	<p>All HVAC systems are operated and maintained as per standards and specifications, and are working properly.</p> <p>Portable air conditioners and fans are only used in ventilated spaces, with air moved from high to low.</p> <p>Operations shall maintain increased levels of air exchanges by adjusting HVAC systems where reasonable.</p> <p>Risk mitigation strategies such as changes to fresh air intake, use of fans and coordinated opening of windows and doors, if possible, will be utilized for excessive heat events or times of poor air quality. For heat events the air outside must be cooler than the air inside before using these strategies.</p>
Cleaning and Disinfecting	<p>Frequently touched surfaces (those touched by a larger number of people and outlined in the Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings) are cleaned and disinfected at least once per day. Surfaces touched by fewer people are cleaned once per day. All disinfecting to meet these requirements in SD69 buildings will be done by after-hours custodial staff.</p> <p>Due to the frequently touched surfaces in them, SD69 School buses will be disinfected daily using electrostatic sprayers after the bus is done being used for the day.</p>

	<p>Disinfecting supplies to be made available to WHMIS trained staff in shared spaces such as staff rooms, work rooms, etc.</p> <p>Disinfecting supplies to be made available to WHMIS trained first aid attendants to disinfect any isolation space or sick room used by a symptomatic person waiting to go home. Any surface a person’s bodily fluids have contacted after they have displayed symptoms of illness should be disinfected before used by someone else.</p> <p>No quarantine or disinfecting measures are necessary for books or papers.</p>
Administrative Measures	
Gatherings, Events and Sports	Schools can resume all types of gatherings and events (including staff only gatherings and events), and there are no longer specific capacity limits. Schools and staff should use an inclusive and trauma-informed lens when planning school gatherings and events.
Space Arrangement	<p>Schools can return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches, though should still consider implementing strategies to help create space between people and to support students and staff using a trauma-informed approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind students and staff about respecting others personal space. Use visual supports, signage, prompts, video modelling, etc. as necessary. • Use available space to spread people out, both in learning environments and for gatherings and events, where possible. • Implement strategies that prevent crowding at pick-up and drop-off times • Take students outside more often, where and when possible. • Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways and around lockers, to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through. • Use floor markings and posters to address traffic flow throughout the school. This may include one-way hallways and designated entrance and exit doors. It is important not to reduce the number of exits and ensure the fire code is adhered to.
Staff Specific Considerations	For gatherings (e.g. meetings, pro-d, etc.), use available space to spread people out, and consider virtual options. Gatherings must also occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders and any related WorkSafe BC guidance.

<p>Visitors (including substitutes, specialists/sub-contractors, district staff, parents/caregivers, and volunteers)</p>	<p>Schools are responsible for ensuring that visitors are aware of communicable disease protocols and requirements, and have completed a daily health check, prior to entering the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on communicable disease protocols and requirements for visitors should be posted by the entrance to the school, on the school’s website and included in communications to students and families. <p>Schools can 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 visitors for communicable disease prevention purposes.</p> <p>Schools can return to routine pick up/drop off practices, though should still consider strategies to prevent crowding at pick-up and drop-off time. Parents/caregivers and other visitors should respect others’ personal space while on school grounds, including outside.</p>
<p>Curriculum Programs and Activities</p>	<p>For music and physical education (and other subjects necessary), equipment that touches the mouth (ie. water bottles, instrument mouth pieces) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected between uses.</p> <p>The B.C. Music Educators’ Association and the Coalition for Music Education in B.C. have also developed Guidance for Music Classes in BC During COVID-19. In the case of any discrepancy in guidance, schools and school districts are expected to follow the Ministry of Education guidelines outlined in the Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings document.</p> <p>For food and culinary programs, where food is prepared as part of learning, food should be consumed only by the students preparing it.</p> <p>For food service and culinary program spaces, only disinfectants appropriate for food preparation surfaces shall be used.</p> <p>Intra- and inter-school theatre, film and dance programs, activities and events (e.g., plays, concerts) can continue in alignment with the guidance within this document and the capacity should follow that outlined within the School Gatherings, Events and Sports section.</p> <p>Shared equipment such as set pieces, props, cameras etc. should be cleaned and disinfected as per cleaning and disinfecting guidelines in this document and students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment.</p>
<p>Field Trips</p>	<p>When planning field trips, staff should follow existing policies and procedures as well as the guidance in this document. Additional measures specific to field trips should be taken, including:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For transportation, including school bus transportation and public transit, see guidance in the Bus Transportation section in this document. • Schools must ensure that volunteers providing supervision are trained in and 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. • Schools should consider guidance provided for overnight camps from BCCDC and the BC Camps Association when planning overnight trips that include group accommodation. • Schools should make every effort to 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., are able to provide proof of vaccination).
<p>Bus Transportation</p>	<p>Staff and all bus riders are to complete a daily health check before boarding the bus and ensure that if they are sick they do not board or ride the bus.</p> <p>SD69 School buses will be disinfected daily using electrostatic sprayers after the bus is done being used for the day.</p> <p>Regular cleaning of the interior and exterior of school buses shall continue as normal.</p> <p>Drivers and students are encouraged to practice hand hygiene before and after trips. Hand sanitizer dispensers are installed on each bus.</p> <p>Bus passengers will be spread out if empty seats are available.</p> <p>Bus windows will be opened when weather allows to increase dilution and fresh air flow.</p> <p>Bus drivers, teachers and students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 may choose to wear masks or face coverings when they are on the bus but masks are not mandatory.</p>
<p>Food Services</p>	<p>Food services (ie. Meal programs, cafeterias, fundraisers, etc.), are following regular operational and food safety practices including food safety training for applicable personnel.</p>
<p>Community use of Schools</p>	<p>After hours community use of facilities is allowed in alignment with other health and safety measures:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use must occur in line with those activities permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders • Diligent hand hygiene • Respiratory etiquette • Ensuring participants stay home if they are feeling ill • Where possible, limiting building access to only those areas required for the purpose of the activity
Water Fountains	The use of water fountains is not limited. Water fountain touch controls shall be disinfected as a frequently touched surface once daily.
Personal Measures	
Daily Health Checks	<p>Staff, parents and students are regularly reminded of their responsibilities to complete a Daily Health Check and are provided with resources on how to complete one. Documentation of the health check is not required.</p> <p>https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e2s1</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/covid/daily-health-check-english.pdf</p>
Stay Home When Sick/What To Do When Sick	<p>Staff and students are regularly reminded to stay home when they are sick and are provided with resources on what to do if they are sick.</p> <p>‘Do Not Enter If You Are Sick’ posters hung at all entry points to SD69 staff buildings.</p>
Symptoms Develop At School/Work	<p>Staff and students are informed to notify someone right away if they feel sick at work. Arrangements shall be made to allow the person to go home immediately. If a student must wait for a ride home they shall wait in an appropriate sick room/isolation room and wear a mask if able (all ages). Any surface contaminated with bodily fluids in this space must be disinfected before the space can be occupied by someone else.</p> <p>Sickrooms/isolation spaces for symptomatic individuals should not use cloth pillows or bedding unless it can be changed after every use and washed on high heat before reuse.</p>
Returning to School/Work After Illness	Health care provider notes/doctors’ notes are not required to confirm the health status of any individual, beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual practice.
Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette	Hand cleaning facilities shall be available and accessible throughout all schools and office buildings.

	<p>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette posters shall be hung in appropriate areas.</p> <p>Where students are using frequently touched items like toys or manipulatives that may not be able to be cleaned often or at all, hand hygiene must be practiced before and after use.</p>
Personal Protective Equipment	
Masks	<p>The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice for staff, students and visitors. A person’s choice should be supported and respected.</p> <p>Schools should 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.</p>
Supportive School Environments	<p>Schools can support students to practice personal preventive measures by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having staff model these behaviours. • Sharing reliable information, including from the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, to parents, families and caregivers. • Promoting safety measures in the school through the use of visual aids like floor markings and signage. <p>Staff should utilize positive and inclusive approaches to engage students in personal prevention practices aligned with existing professional practices to address behaviour. This includes where a student, staff, or other adult (including visitors) cannot comply with a specific safety measure due to health or behavioural reasons. In these circumstances, schools/districts should work with these individuals (and their parents/caregivers, if applicable to a student) to explore other environmental and administrative measures to ensure their safety and the safety of others. Approaches should not exclude students from participating in school or potentially result in stigma.</p> <p>Staff should also 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 (The distance from which a person feels comfortable being next to another person).</p> <p>Students and staff may choose to wear masks, face shields or other personal protective equipment in schools, and those choices must be respected.</p> <p>School administrators are encouraged to review the information in this section with their school community, to increase awareness and support from staff, students and families.</p>