

5.33 Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

1. Understand the Risk:

- Administrative staff will regularly review documents provided by the Ministry of Education and FISA via email regarding any updates on communicable disease prevention measures and orders from the Provincial Health Officer.
- Administrative staff will update this and other relevant documents and policies relating to communicable disease prevention and communicate these updates to the school community.

2. Implement Measures, Practices and Policies to Reduce the Risk:

Managing and Responding to Illness:

- School Authority will share information and details on how and where people can get vaccinated, with staff, students, and families
- Parents and caregivers must assess their children daily for illness before sending them to school and stay home if sick.
- Staff and visitors must assess themselves daily for illness before entering school and stay home if sick.
- If a student or staff member develops any symptoms of illness at school:
 - They will be directed to immediately wash their hands and put on a mask
 - Arrangements will be made for them to go home as soon as possible and while waiting for parent pick up, students will wait in the library
 - The areas the student/staff used will be cleaned and disinfected immediately
 - Any students/staff who interacted with the symptomatic individual will be asked to wash their hands
 - They will be encouraged to stay home until symptoms have improved and they feel well enough to participate in all school-related activities.
- Students, staff and other adults should follow public health guidance and/or the recommendation of their health care provider when they are sick. Information specific to COVID-19 is available from BCCDC.
- Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19-like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal.
- The School will track and report daily attendance rates (staff and students away), identifying illness-related absenteeism to the Ministry of Education through MyED.
- After any period of school closure, the restart date will be determined by the principal under guidance of Public Health.
- Teachers will provide remote learning if in-class lessons are suspended.
- Teachers will also provide home learning activities for any student who is home sick while in-class lessons are still taking place.
- Staff will continue to have extra sick days in their contracts to encourage a precautionary approach to illness and symptoms

Hand Hygiene:

- A hand washing sink and hand sanitizer will be available for use outside the school entrance. All persons will wash their hands before entering the school each time.
- During class time, students will wash their hands using their classroom designated sinks
- Posters with pictures and steps for proper hand washing will be posted at all wash stations
- Education and awareness about covering coughs and sneezes and washing hands after touching nose and mouth will be provided to students

Cleaning/Disinfecting and Ventilation:

- Approved hard-surface disinfectants for use against COVID will be used for disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and all purpose general cleaners will be used for cleaning.
- The entire school will be cleaned and disinfected after school every day.
- Janitorial services will happen on weekends to accomplish a more thorough deep cleaning.
- Staff and students can continue to bring personal items to school but they will be encouraged to only bring items that are necessary (backpack, water bottle, extra clothes), and sharing personal items will be discouraged. Show and share items will be limited to one day a month only, are not to be shared and will be kept in student back pack for the duration of the day with the exception of sharing time. All other stuffies and toys will remain at home otherwise.
- If a sick child uses the library as a space to wait for parent pick up the library will be off limits for 48 hrs.
- Ceiling fans and bathroom fans will be turned on regularly to provide improved air flow and ventilation. Windows will be opened when weather/temperature permits us to do so. The Dyson Air purifying heating/fans will run 24hrs in both Dragon and Eagle classrooms.

Physical Distancing:

- Although 2m physical distancing and learning cohorts are no longer required, staff and students will still be encouraged to give everyone personal space. In indoor spaces, people have enough room to carry out intended activities without involuntary physical contact and all available space is used.
- Each classroom will use their own designated doors for entering and exiting the school to reduce crowding
- Teachers will use all space available in their classrooms and provide seating arrangements that reduce involuntary physical contact between students.
- Whenever possible, teachers will take students outside for learning activities and for snack and lunch.
- Staff, parents and board members will ensure there is enough space available to prevent involuntary physical contact between attendees during meetings.
- Teachers will continue to implement strategies to manage flow of students in mudrooms to minimize crowding.
- Whole school student events may happen in larger indoor spaces ensuring there is enough space available to prevent involuntary physical contact between students and staff.
- School gatherings will follow local, regional, Provincial and Federal health recommendations and Orders.

Personal Protective Equipment:

- Staff, volunteers and students may wear a mask if they choose to but it is not required. Masks are available at school for those who would choose to wear one.

Travel and Field Trips:

- For carpooling: continue to spread out as much as possible, Travel with the same people whenever possible, Set the vehicle's ventilation to bring in fresh outside air, and do not recirculate the air, Open the windows when the weather allows, Clean hands before and after trips, and Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly.
- Overnight trips are allowed and will consider guidance provided for overnight camps from BCCDC and the BC Camps Association when planning trips that include group accommodation.

3. Monitor and Update the Plan as necessary

- Administrative Staff will monitor and update this plan as necessary under the guidance of the ministry of education and the Provincial health officer, in consultation with the L&L Health and Safety Committee.

Documents used as references when updating this policy:

-WorkSafe BC guidance for offices

-K-12 Provincial Guidelines as advised by Ministry of Education

-K-12 Public Guidelines as determined by BCCDC