



Immaculate Conception School

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Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

The purpose of this document is to:

- (1) Share and communicate steps to maintain a safe and healthy school environment by minimizing the risk of spreading COVID 19 and other communicable diseases*
- (2) Providing ongoing measures to reduce the risk of communicable diseases and to implement additional measures as directed by public health.*

Health Checks Prior to Entering the School (daily)

- Parents are encouraged to assess their children daily, to confirm that their child does not have the symptoms of the common cold, influenza, COVID 19, or other infectious respiratory disease before bringing them to school.
 - [Mobile enabled website](#)
 - [iPhone app](#)
 - [Google Android app](#)
- Staff are encouraged to assess themselves daily for symptoms of the common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school. This assessment must be completed before 8 am and can be completed as either a physical checklist or online. Please refer to [Work Safe BC Health Check](#) or [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool](#)
- A health check means a person regularly checking to ensure they (or their child) are not experiencing symptoms of illness (including but not limited to [COVID-19 symptoms](#)) that would limit their ability to participate fully in regular activities before coming to school to prevent spread of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, within school settings.
- Students, staff or other adults should stay at 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:
 - Parents/caregivers and students can use the [K-12 Health Check app](#).
 - Staff and other adults can refer to BCCDC's [When to get tested for COVID-19](#) resource

- Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online [Self-Assessment Tool](#), call 8-1-1 or their health care provider.
- Staff, children, or other persons in the school setting who test positive for COVID-19 should follow the guidance on the [BCCDC website](#) as to how long they should self-isolate. They can return to school when they no longer need to self-isolate as long as symptoms have improved, and they are well enough to participate in regular activities.
- Staff, children, or other persons can attend school if their symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies) or symptoms have improved enough to where they feel well enough to return to regular activities and their fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g., ibuprofen, acetaminophen).
- Any staff or students who are travelling outside of Canada are asked to refer [here](#) for guidelines and protocols.
- Schools are not permitted to provide notification to staff or student families if a staff member or student becomes ill at school, unless directed by a Public Health official.

If a student develops symptoms while at school

- If a staff member, student, or other person develops symptoms of illness at school and is unable to participate in regular activities, they should be supported to go home until their symptoms have improved. Appropriate infection control precautions should be taken while the person is preparing to leave the school premises, including use of appropriate hand hygiene and cleaning/disinfection of surfaces soiled with bodily fluids. They may use a mask if they are experiencing respiratory symptoms.
- A student who shows any symptoms will be immediately separated from others and brought to the sick room in the office.
- The student's parent or caregiver will immediately be contacted by Mrs. Gamble or Mrs. Barth for immediate pick up. Parents or caregivers must keep their child at home until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases, and their symptoms have resolved.
- Where possible, maintain physical distance from the ill student.
- Staff will provide the student with tissues to cover their coughs or sneezes. Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene.
- Staff members are to avoid touching the student's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva). If they do, diligent hand hygiene is practiced and staff is encouraged to wear gloves, if possible.
- Once the student is picked up, staff will practice diligent hand hygiene.
- Staff must clean and disinfect the sick room and any areas used by the student (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).

Entry and Access to School Building

Updated: September 15, 2022

- Visitors are welcomed to come into the school.
- Schools can follow normal practices for welcoming visitors and the community use of schools. Visitors, including community groups using the school, should follow applicable communicable disease prevention measures outlined in this document.
- A copy of the communicable disease prevention plan is at the office to be provided to all Teachers on Call, specialized service providers, and visitors.
- All visitors must enter the school through the main school entrance:
 - Visitors are required to sign in and out of the school. However, they are no longer required to provide contact information for communicable disease prevention purposes. Disposable masks will be available at the office, if required for visitors.
- School gatherings and events (e.g., assemblies) will not have a specific capacity limit.

Drop off and Pick up:

- Students can be dropped off at the gate by their parents each morning. If a student arrives late, please come to the front door and ring the buzzer to have your child let in.
- At the end of the day, students will be dismissed by their teacher and classes will exit by the gate. Students no longer need to line up by grades.
- Students will be encouraged by a staff member to wash their hands or use the hand sanitizer stations, upon arrival into the building.
- Students are asked to follow the designated signage on the floor in the main hallways.

Hygiene

Students and staff must wash their hands:

- When they arrive at school and before they go home
- Before eating and drinking
- After using the toilet
- After sneezing or coughing into hands or tissue
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- When moving between different learning environments (e.g., outdoor-indoor transitions, from the gym to the classroom)
- Teachers and support staff will assist younger students with hand hygiene as required.
- Hand-washing supplies are available at all times (soap, paper towels, 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer)
- If a sink is not available, alcohol based hand sanitizer (60% alcohol) will be used.
- Staff and students should:

- Cough or sneeze into their elbow or a tissue.
 - Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.
 - Refrain from touching their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, and unwashed utensils.
- Disposable masks are available at the office for staff and students.
 - Food and drink should not be shared amongst students.
 - Students must be able to open their own food containers and packages.
 - Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles for use during the day. Students will be permitted to fill their water bottles at the filling stations, and drink from the water fountains.
 - Hand washing signs are posted near all sinks. All staff will wash their hands frequently to reduce the risk of transmission.

Physical Distancing

- Seating arrangements within classrooms and various learning environments can return to configurations that best meet the learner needs and preferred education approaches.
- Strategies will continue to be implemented that create space between people.

Students:

- Students are reminded to respect others' personal space.
- All students in Grades K-12 are no longer required to wear a mask or a face shield indoors in school and on school buses. A family's choice regarding face coverings will be respected.

Staff:

- Teachers and support staff will maintain a respectful distance from students.
- Work processes and practices are modified to encourage physical distancing between staff and student, and between staff.
- Staff are no longer required to wear a mask or face shield indoors in school.
- Gatherings can be held in person: This includes:
 - Large gatherings, like school assemblies
 - Staff gatherings, like meetings or professional development activities

Learning Spaces

- At this time, students will be partaking in gym class, music, library, and computer classes.
- Students will be permitted to borrow library books, once the library is opened.
- Extracurricular sports tournaments can be held.
- Students are encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment (e.g. before and after a sports game using a shared ball), as well as proper respiratory etiquette
- Shared equipment will be cleaned and disinfected and students are encouraged to wash their hands before and after use
- Students are encouraged to not share equipment that touches the mouth, like an instrument mouth piece or mouthguard, unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses

Managing Communicable Disease Activity at School

- Most communicable diseases experienced by students and staff within school settings may be managed by the individual/family and through routine preventative measures, such as staying home from school until well enough to participate in regular activities
- Medical Health Officers play the lead role in determining if, when and how to communicate information regarding increased communicable disease activity within a school.
- A functional closure of a school is the temporary closure of a school determined by a school district or independent school authority due to a lack of staff to provide the required level of teaching, supervision, support, and/or custodial to ensure the health and safety of students. This would likely be due to a high number of staff or certain employees away who are required for a school to function, and the inability to temporarily replace them.

Food Services:

- Immaculate Conception School can continue to partake in food preparation for meal programs.
- If food is prepared as part of learning and is consumed by the student(s) who prepared it, no additional measures beyond those articulated in this document and normal food safety measures and requirements need to be implemented (e.g. Food Safe trained staff, a food safety plan, etc.).
- If food is prepared within or outside a school for consumption by people other than those who prepared it (including for sale), it is expected that the [WorkSafe BC Restaurants, cafes, pubs, and nightclubs: Protocols for returning to operation](#) are implemented as appropriate and relevant to the school setting, in addition to normally implemented food safety measures and requirements (e.g. Food Safe trained staff, a food safety plan, etc).
- Homemade food items will not be made available to students at this time (baked goods, birthday treats, etc).

Cleaning / Disinfecting During and After School Hours

- Common, commercially-available detergents and disinfectant products are being used.
- Cleaning of the school building will include:
 - General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises at least once every 24 hours (this includes items that only a single student uses)
 - Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces at least twice every 24 hours (this includes door knobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks and chairs used by multiple students, keyboards and toys).
 - Any surface that is visibly dirty
- Items that cannot be easily disinfected and cleaned (e.g., newspapers, magazines, books, toys) will be removed.
- Garbage containers are emptied daily.
- Shared items where cross-contamination is possible (shared school supplies, coffee stations, water stations, etc.) are limited, removed, or restricted from access.
- Shared items amongst students (eg. iPads, gym equipment, musical instruments, etc) must be cleaned and disinfected between use.
- Staff are expected to wipe down shared spaces at the end of the day.
- There are no additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures required. This includes when different cohorts use the same space (e.g. a classroom, gym, arts room, home economics or science lab, etc.).

Cleaning / Disinfecting During and After School Hours (Custodian)

- General cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces will occur at least once a day.
- Immaculate Conception is cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the [BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfecting for Public Settings](#)
- [Cleaning practices follow the PHO's COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Childcare Settings](#)

References

- [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)
- [K-12 Education Restart Plan. BC Ministry of Education](#)
- [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings.](#)
- [Addendum Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)
- [WorkSafe BC: COVID-19 and returning to safe operation](#)
- [WorkSafe BC: Education \(K-12\): Protocols for returning to operation.](#)

- [BC CDC's Cleaning and Disinfecting for Public Settings](#)
- [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Childcare Settings](#)
- [BC Government Self-Assessment Tool](#)