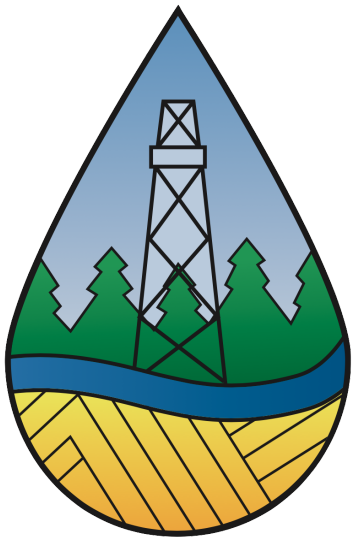

Continuity of Learning Part II

Stage 3 - Return to Partial Attendance

Plan for Families

May 2020

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Stage 3 Return to Partial Attendance

As part of British Columbia's Restart Plan, schools will be reopening to partial in-class attendance (Stage 3) starting no later than the week of June 1st. This will support learning for all of our students and help with summer/fall transitions.

Public Health has shared with us that transmission rates of COVID-19 between children and from children to adults is extremely low. With a careful approach, it is safe to re-open schools at this time.

Families have the choice as to whether their children attend. Supporting learning at home, with a changed level of service, will continue for families that choose not to attend. Students that do attend will have learning opportunities for home as well.

In School District 60 stage 3 partial attendance will have the following approximate parameters with reduced class sizes to minimize physical contact for young students and to provide for physical distancing for older students and adults.

- Kindergarten - Grade 6 - 2 days per week
- Grade 7- Grade 12 - 1 day per week
- All grades supplemented by online / remote home learning
- Monday's are targeted to support online / remote learning and teacher preparation.
- ESW and Vulnerable students 5 days per week as needed

Health and Safety

Health and Safety of staff and students continues to be our first priority.

Supporting Documents and Plans

BCCDC COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools - updated May 15, 2020

Provincial Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12

WorksafeBC COVID-19 Returning to Safe Operation - Education

Our District and Site Based Joint Health and Safety Committees will work collaboratively on developing plans that fulfill the expectations of Provincial Health.

Schools will be communicating to parents and students new expectations and protocols.

These include, but are not limited to

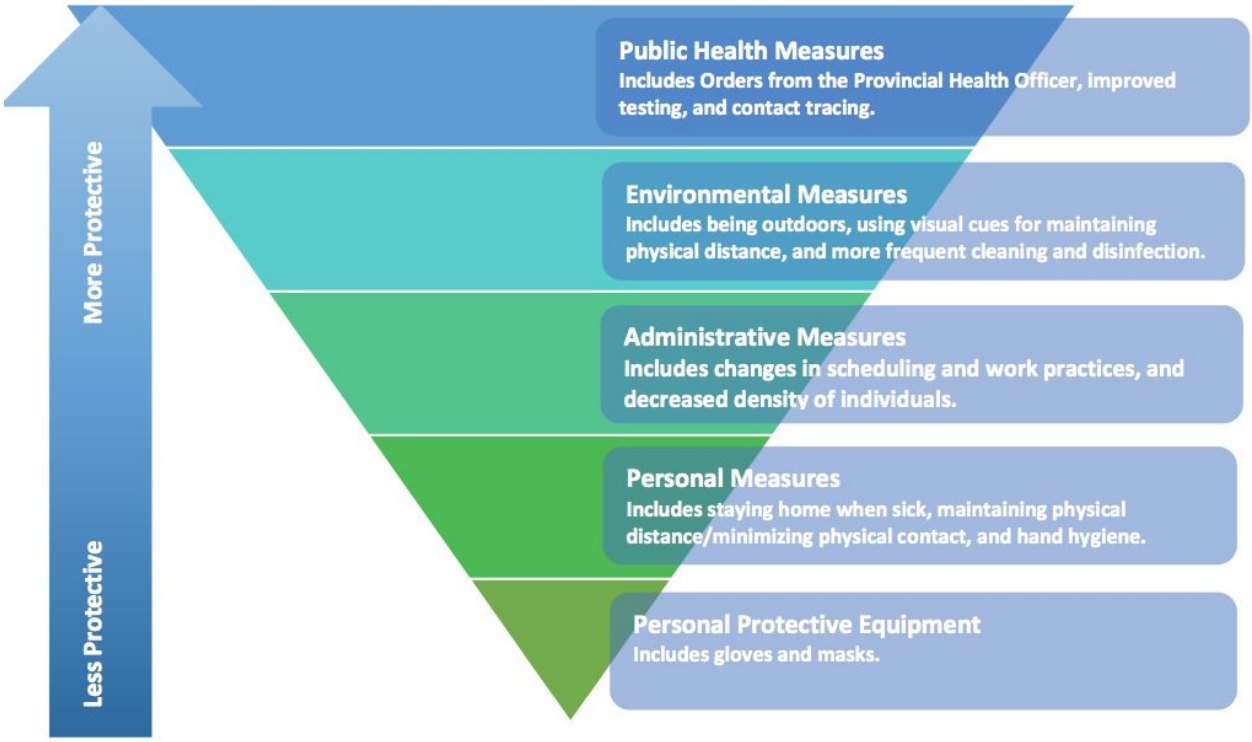
- Decreased density of students in classes and schools
- Increased hand hygiene, and increased instruction about hand hygiene, physical spacing, and respiratory etiquette.
- Staggering of lunch and recess breaks to limit number of students on playgrounds
- Staggering of entry / exit times to limit the number of students congregating near entries
- Spreading out bus pick up and drop off locations
- Parents are asked not to enter schools except for scheduled appointments
- Making more cleaning supplies available to staff, twice or more daily cleaning of high touch surfaces, and daily deep cleaning of the school.

Further measures are included in the remaining Health and Safety section below.

The Health and Safety section is further organized according to the diagram from the May 15, 2020 document from the BCCDC, K-12 COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools. This guidance from the BCCDC is also present in the Provincial Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 documents. The Health & Safety section is drawn from these documents.

> 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.

The Hierarchy for Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease



[1]

Public Health Measures

Mass Gatherings - PHO's order for Mass Gatherings in excess of 50 people is still in place, however this Order does not apply to regular school activities. There can be more than 50 students and staff in a school at any given time if they are not all in the same area. Large assemblies of staff and students should not be held in person.

Case Finding, Contact Tracing and Outbreak Management - to support Public Health in the event of an outbreak attendance should be taken for students and adults attending school in person. Schools already have in place a tracking procedure for staff and adults in-building.

Self-Isolation - should students or staff have common-cold, or COVID-19 like symptoms they must stay home and be assessed by a healthcare provider. Link to COVID-19 Self Assessment tool

[1] COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings UPDATED: May 15 pg 3

Environmental Measures

Cleaning and Disinfection - Regular cleaning and disinfection is happening in our schools. Schools will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document.
This includes:

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises should occur at least once a day.
- Frequently-touched shared surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day. (e.g. door knobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks, chairs, electronic devices, keyboards and toys)
- Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty.
- Use common, commercially-available detergents and disinfectant products and closely follow the instructions on the label.
- Limit items that are not easily cleaned (e.g. fabric or soft items).
- Empty garbage containers daily.
- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning blood or body fluids (e.g. runny nose, vomit, stool, urine).
- Wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves.
- Washrooms should be cleaned at least twice a day keeping in line with the high touch surface area protocols.

Additional Environmental Measures

- Providing paper hand towels rather than hand dryers.
- Disabling touch activated water fountains. Bottle fill stations that work through proximity will remain in service.
- Provision of cleaning products for common devices and materials used for the delivery of education (e.g. photocopiers, supply rooms, etc.).

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 of books or paper based educational resources to students because of COVID-19. Libraries can remain open.

Administrative Measures

Physical Distancing and Minimizing Physical Contact - Following guidance from the BCCDC younger students should be instructed to avoid physical contact. Adolescents and adults should continue to follow physical distancing (2m) guidelines.

- Avoid close greetings (hugs, fist bumps, handshakes). “Hands to yourself” takes on additional meaning.
- Classrooms should have no more than 50% of the regular enrolment present at any time.
- Spread people out into different areas if that supports distancing.
- Stagger pick-up and drop-off times
- Minimize parents and caregivers entering the school for pick-up / drop off unless it is required to support students with complex needs. (Parents can schedule a visit where required)
- Take students outside more often. Learning activities, snack time, placed-based learning, and unstructured time can happen outside. Use of Playgrounds with encouraged hygiene practices before, during, and after play is safe.
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways, and bathrooms.
- Assemblies and other school-wide events should be held virtually to avoid large gatherings of people in one space.

Transportation - Buses used for transporting students should be cleaned and disinfected according to the BCCDC’s Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings Document.

- Encourage parents to drive students to schools to decrease transportation density.
- Students should sit in their own seat unless they are from the same household

Additional Requirements - **Schools must create local procedures** for how they will fulfill all identified PHO guidelines including the following

- Additional measures and direction on implementing physical distancing (e.g. define the ages/grades of younger students vs. older students; clarify different approaches for minimizing physical contact vs. physical distancing).
- Clear protocols for employees, students, and others entering and exiting schools as well as school outdoor activities and student pick-up and drop-off.
- Clear protocols for bringing materials (e.g. bags, school supplies) into and out of schools.
- Clear protocols for safe and healthy handling of all food items, such as labelling of beverage and food containers, clear communication to students not to contact or share items, and other parameters deemed appropriate.
- Employees and students should not be sharing personal items (e.g. electronic devices, writing instruments, etc.).

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 disease before sending them to school.
- Staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school.
- School Administrators 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 disease prior to entering the school.
- School Administrators must develop a local protocol that:
    - Clearly communicates with parents and caregivers their responsibility to assess their children daily before sending them to school.
    - Establishes appropriate conduct and process for school drop-off and pick-up.
    - Establish procedures for students and staff who become sick while at school to be sent home as soon as possible. (See Appendix B)
- Staff and students who are ill, including children of essential service workers, should not be permitted to attend school (Note: Students and employees should stay home until deemed healthy to return).
- Those unsure of if they, or a student, should self-isolate should be directed to use the BC COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool, connect with 8-1-1 or a health care provider.
- According to the BCCDC guidance, “There is no role for screening students or staff for symptoms, checking temperatures, or COVID-19 testing. Such activities are reserved for healthcare professionals.”
- Appendix A, B, and C from the BCCDC COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools are available at the end of this document and include
    - Appendix A: Summary of School-Based Control Measures
    - Appendix B: What to do if a Student or Staff Member Develops Symptoms at School
    - Appendix C: When to Perform Hand Hygiene at School

Hand Hygiene

- Rigourous hand washing with plan soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. If access to water and sinks is limited use alcohol-based hand rub containing at least 60% alcohol
- BCCDC Handwashing Poster
- Strategies to ensure diligent hand hygiene
    - Have alcohol-based hand rub stations at school entrances whenever possible
    - Regularly remind staff and students about the importance of hand hygiene
    - Incorporate opportunities for hand hygiene in the daily schedule
    - Ensure hand washing supplies are stocked at all times including soap, paper towels, and where appropriate, alcohol-based hand rub.

Respiratory Etiquette

Staff and students should:

- Cough and sneeze into their elbow, sleeve, 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, unwashed utensils, anything that touches a mouth

The following is included in the Provincial government and BCCDC guidance documents -

> "Cloth or homemade masks are not recommended, particularly for children. There is limited evidence outside of health care settings and only in uncontrolled situations where physical distancing between adults cannot be maintained for extended periods of time (greater than 15 minutes with a person who has probable or lab confirmed COVID-19). Wearing a mask is a personal choice. It is important to treat people wearing masks with respect.
> Parents, caregivers and staff can teach and reinforce these practices amongst students."

[2]

Personal Protective Equipment

From the BCCDC guidance document:

[2] Provincial K-12 COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES - pg 9

Personal protective equipment, such as masks and gloves are not needed, beyond those used by staff as part of regular precautions for the hazards normally encountered in their regular course of work. They should only be used when all other controls fail.

- Managing students with complex behaviours, on a delegated care plan or experiencing a health emergency may require staff to be in close physical proximity with the student. **No additional personal protective equipment beyond normal universal precautions are required.**

There is no evidence to support the use of medical grade, cloth, or homemade masks in school settings at this time. Wearing one is a personal choice. It is important to treat people wearing masks with respect. More information about COVID-related mask use is available here."

[3]

Timelines

May 19 - 29 Plan development, Consultation with unions and partners

- Schools work with staff to develop local protocols
- Schools connect with families to determine who will attend in person

Support for ESW and vulnerable students continues up to full time.

June 1 - June 19 Return to partial in-class instruction

Grades K - 6 - Density: no more than 50%

- Two days (Tuesday and Wednesday) for group 1
- Two days (Thursday and Friday) for group 2
- One day per week to support remote learning and teacher preparation period - Monday

Grades 7 - 12 - Density: no more than 20%

- Rotation of groups on different days.
    - Schools will rotate schedules if needed because of Day 1/2 configurations.
- One day per week to support home learning and teacher preparation period - Targeted for Monday

Support for ESW and vulnerable students continues up to full time for K-12.

[3] COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings UPDATED: May 15, 2020, pg 8

June 22 - June 26

Similar plan as June 1 - June 19 except

- June 23 is Group 1 for Elementary
- June 24 is Group 2 for Elementary
- June 25 will not follow a traditional last day of school. More to come.
- June 26 is the last day for teachers

Support for ESW and vulnerable students continues up to full time.

Scheduling

The support for online / remote learning & teacher preparation day will be on Monday.

For K-6 group 1 will attend on Tuesday and Wednesday
For K-6 group 2 will attend on Thursday and Friday
For 7-12 the groups will attend on a scheduled day decided upon by the school other than Monday.

K-6 schools will need to ascertain which families are planning to attend to help in creation of their schedules.

7-12 schools will need to ascertain which families are planning to attend to help in creation of their schedules.

Schools will communicate to families which days they are scheduled to attend.

Students that do not fall in the ESW/Tier 2/Vulnerable student categories should only attend as scheduled.

Communications

School staff will be contacting parents to determine who will be returning to school for partial in-class instruction and who will be learning from home. Staff will either be phoning or utilizing online forms to get that information from parents. Please check your

voicemail, email, or school websites for more information. If you have not heard from your school, please phone the office or email your teacher or administrator.

Social Emotional Supports & Trauma Informed Practice

As schools in BC plan for June 1 and partial in-class attendance (Stage 3) for grades K-12, it will be important to understand that before any significant academic learning can take place, there will also need to be a focus on Social Emotional Learning, Mental Health Wellness and mitigating trauma resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue drawing upon the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) evidence-based practices that are already embedded in our district to support the transition (for both students and staff) back to in-class learning. In addition, there will also need to be a focus on trauma informed /compassionate practice to help mitigate any trauma that children, youth and adults may have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

District and community counsellors will continue to support children, youth and adults navigate the myriad of thoughts and emotions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Continue to connect and collaborate with school- based teams to address the needs of vulnerable students and families.
- Offer school personnel professional development opportunities focused on how to cope with stress /anxiety and increase mental health capacity.
- Provide resources/training that tie the core competencies of communication, thinking and personal/social responsibility to the principles of trauma-informed practice

Continuity of Educational Opportunities

In June students will continue their learning in a variety of ways. Some are attending 100% of the time, some will learn remotely, and some will attend partially and continue

learning while at home (a “hybrid” model). No matter how students are participating it is important that they continue to be part of our learning community. Relationships between educators/students/families are an identified root cause of success in our district.

There is no expectation to catch up on missed curriculum during in-person classes. Parents have let us know that they appreciated remote learning opportunities that teachers have provided. For those students attending in-person they do not need to complete everything in their short time. Learning opportunities can be spread between in-person and at home learning times. Examples would include providing open-ended learning tasks that enable students to be engaged both in-person and at home.

Support for home learning for families who choose not to attend, and to supplement in-person classes is to continue. The level of service for remote learning is understood to change with more in-person instruction and supervision.

Transportation

While transportation can be provided for students who were already taking the bus, we encourage families to drive their own students to schools in order to reduce the density on the bus.

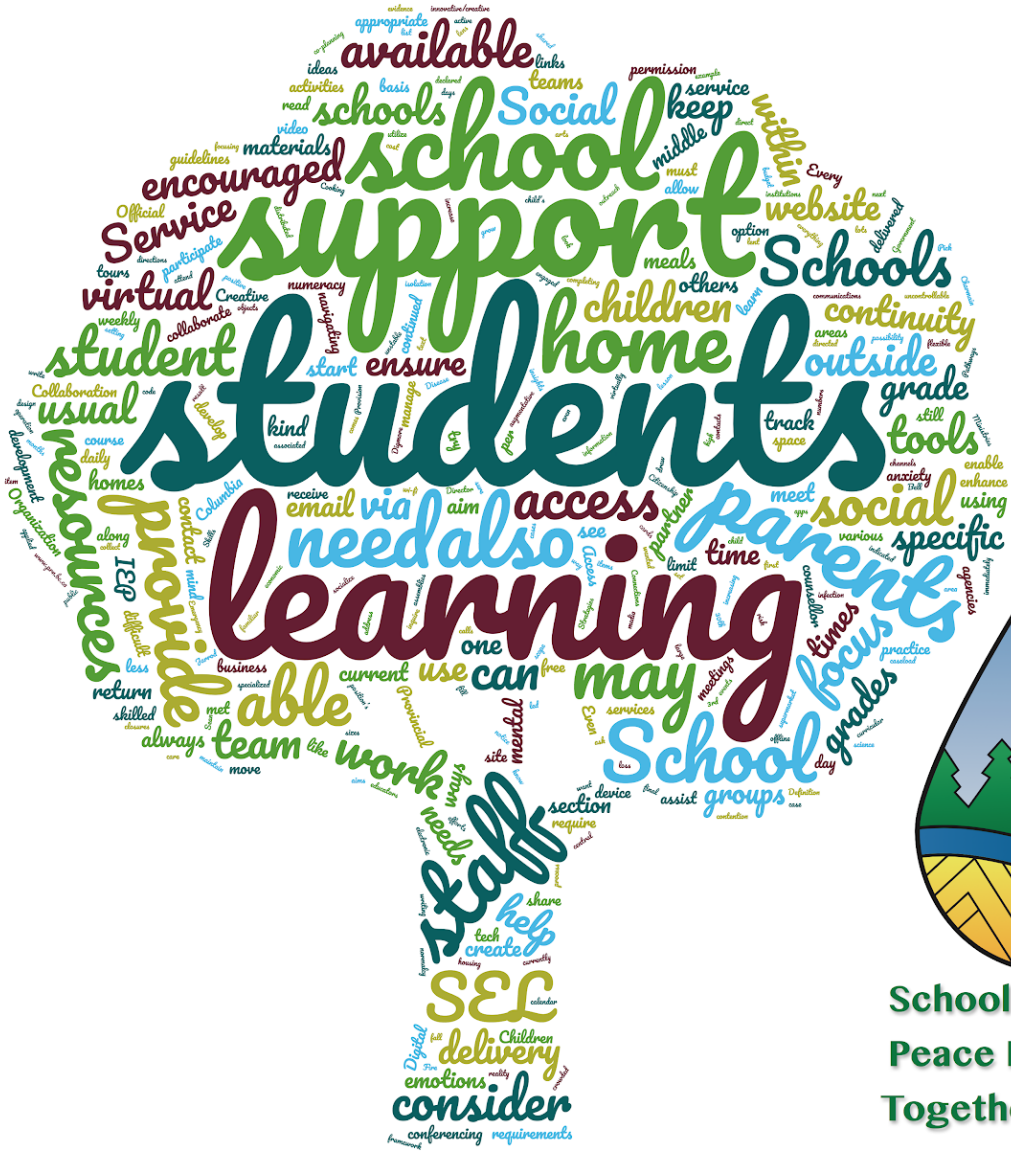
Links

BC K-12 Education Restart Plan
BC Safe & Healthy Schools
COVID-19 Operational Guidelines for School Districts and Independent School Authorities (PDF)
Continuity of Learning Planning Guide for Teachers (PDF) (Updated May 8, 2020)
Continuité De L’éducation Guide De Planification À L’intention Des Enseignants (PDF) (Updated April 17, 2020)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Continuity of Learning in the K to 12 Education System
Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Setting
BCCDC COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings - UPDATED: May 15, 2020
WorkSafeBC Education (K-12): Protocols for returning to operation

Questions

Please direct any questions about continuity of learning to your school administrator or teacher first. After that feel free to contact:

Director of Instruction Jarrod Bell - jbell@prn.bc.ca - 250-262-6011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Schools
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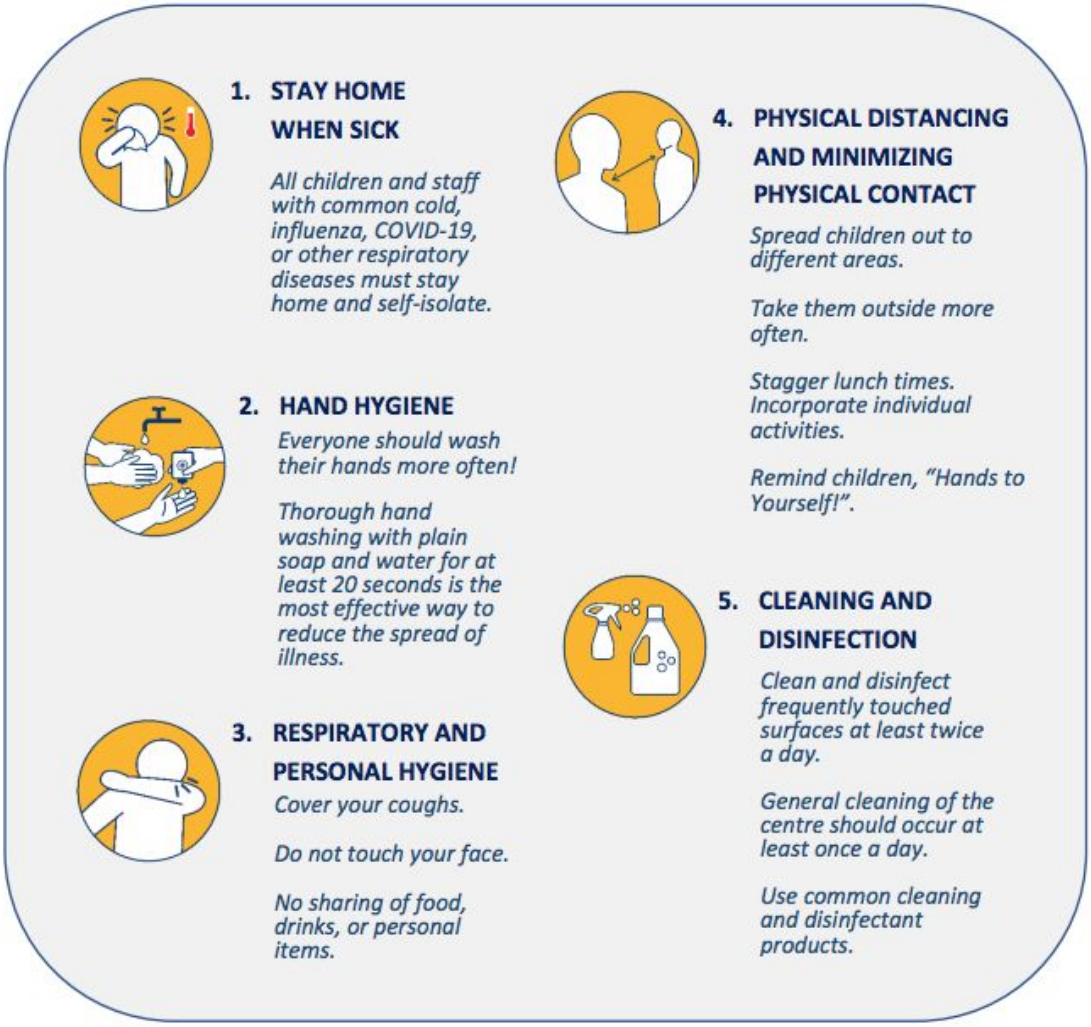
Columbia
School District 60
Peace River North
Together We Learn

Appendix

- Appendix A, B, and C from the BCCDC COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools are available below

Appendix A: Summary of School-Based Control Measures



Appendix B: What to Do if a Student or Staff Member Develops Symptoms at School

If a Student Develops Symptoms of COVID-19	*If a Staff Member Develops Symptoms of COVID-19*
IF STUDENT DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT HOME: **Parents or caregivers must keep their child at home.** The student must self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms AND until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer. **IF STUDENT DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL:** **Staff must take the following steps:** 1. Immediately separate the symptomatic student from others in a supervised area. 2. Contact the student's parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible. 3. Where possible, maintain a distance of 2 metres from the ill student. If not possible, staff may wear a mask if available and tolerated, or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth. 4. Provide the student with tissues to cover their coughs or sneezes. Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene. 5. Avoid touching the student's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva). If you do, practice diligent hand hygiene. 6. Once the student is picked up, practice diligent hand hygiene. 7. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas). 8. Contact 811 or the local public health unit to notify them of a potential case and seek further input. **Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.**	**IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT HOME:** **Staff must be excluded from work and stay home.** Staff must self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms AND until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer. **IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT WORK:** **Staff should go home as soon as possible.** If unable to leave immediately: 1. Symptomatic staff should separate themselves into an area away from others. 2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. 3. Use a tissue or mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait to be picked up. 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). 5. If concerned, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further input.
If a student or staff member is assessed by their family physician or nurse practitioner and it is determined that they do NOT have COVID-19, they may return to school once symptoms resolve.	

Appendix C: When to Perform Hand Hygiene at School

When Students Should Perform Hand Hygiene:	When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene:
• When they arrive at school and before they go home. • Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch). • Between different learning environments (e.g., outdoor-indoor transitions, from the gym to the classroom). • Before and after eating and drinking. • After using the toilet. • After handling common resources/equipment/supplies or pets. • After sneezing or coughing into hands. • Whenever hands are visibly dirty.	• When they arrive at school and before they go home. • Before and after any breaks (e.g. recess, lunch). • Between different learning environments (e.g. outdoor-indoor transitions, from the gym to the classroom). • Before and after eating and drinking. • Before and after handling food or assisting students with eating. • Before and after giving medication to a student or self. • After using the toilet. • After contact with body fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood). • After cleaning tasks. • After removing gloves. • After handling garbage. • Whenever hands are visibly dirty.