

Health and Safety Plan

Updated February 22, 2021

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Introduction

The health and safety of staff and students is of primary importance in our work at Bulkley Valley Christian School. The purpose of this Health and Safety Plan is to outline the BVCS-specific application the Ministry of Education's [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#), the Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#), and [WorkSafeBC Safe Operating Protocols \(K-12 Education\)](#).

It is required that all independent school authorities address all the requirements of the above documents in their Stage 3 Continuity of Learning (PDF) health and safety planning, and inform all community members of their roles and responsibilities in promoting and maintaining a safe and healthy school setting. This Health and Safety Plan provides detail or context to some of the parameters to provide clarity. Staff and parents/caregivers are encouraged to review all of the documents linked above to inform their work and/or decision to have their children return to in-class instruction.

Although this Health and Safety Plan has been primarily drafted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the key message of **"Give SPACE - CLEAN with Care"** and many of the measures outlined below, would apply for reducing transmission of *any* communicable disease in a PreK-12 school context. Some of these measures will, at first, require focus and attention but will, in time and with practice, fade to the background as routine. Finally, it is to be noted that all of these measures are secondary to promoting a strong immune system through healthy diet, regular exercise, and getting enough sleep.

Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Diseases

Give SPACE

Public health measures to *reduce transmission* of communicable diseases involve giving one another space by *reducing contact intensity and minimizing the number of overall contacts*. This means adjustments to the *type* (close/distant) and *duration* (brief/prolonged) of contact and the number of people permitted in a setting at one time.

Specifically, within the PreK-12 setting of Bulkley Valley Christian School, this means:

1. Staying home if you are sick

- a. *Daily self-assessment.* Staff are required to perform daily self-assessment for common-cold, influenza, and [COVID-19 like symptoms](#) prior to coming to work. Parents/Caregivers must assess their child(ren) daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. Staff or Parent/Caregivers

that are unsure how to interpret symptoms, are encouraged to use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) or consult with their physician.

- b. 14 day self-isolation for staff and students is **mandatory** for those identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or an outbreak of COVID-19, OR if they have recently returned from travel outside of Canada
- c. If your child has a symptom consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (such as asthma, allergies, etc.) and this symptom is not unusual for your child, they may come to school. No assessment or note is required from a health care provider.
- d. If your child has mild symptoms without a fever, monitor at home for 24 hours. If symptoms improve or remain mild, they can return to school without further assessment. Students with mild symptoms may be encouraged to mask.
- e. If your child has a fever, or if other symptoms continue after 24 hours, seek a health assessment. A health assessment can include: calling 811, consulting with a health care professional, or having a COVID test. If a COVID-19 test is recommended by a health assessment: a) If the test is positive, your child should stay home until they are told by public health to end their self-isolation, in most cases around 10 days. b) If the test is negative, the student may return to school once symptoms have improved and they feel well enough. Students may return to school if symptoms are mild and improving.
- f. If a parent chooses not to have a COVID-19 test for their child, the child should stay home from school until 10 days after the onset of symptoms, and then may return if feeling well enough.

2. Physical distancing where possible and minimizing physical contact

Note: The current PHO advice regarding physical distancing in PreK-12 context is to “*minimize physical contact*” within learning groups in Stage 2.

- a. *Classroom seating will be arranged to maximize physical distancing.* In Stage 2, non-essential classroom furniture will be removed and desks/tables will be arranged to strike a balance between good pedagogy (teaching and learning) and physical distancing.
- b. *Adjusting schedules and staffing and managing movement.* K-7 students will spend their instructional and break times with their classroom units. Multiple entry and exit doors will be used. High school students will be encouraged to minimize physical contact and crowding.
- c. *Using outdoors more often.* K-6 students will take supervised, daily outdoor breaks with their classroom units. Some instructional/work time for K-12 will take place outdoors. Outdoor instruction for high school students will be encouraged whenever possible.

3. Stage 2 specific administrative actions

- a. *No large assemblies of 50+ persons will be allowed at this time.* Larger gatherings (>20 persons) at the school will be held outside.

- b. *Staff members and students will be sent home if symptomatic.* Students who become sick will wait in a separate, supervised setting until notified parents/caregivers can pick their child up. Staff members are instructed to go home as soon as they experience symptoms.
- c. School will notify our public health office to report increased absenteeism due to sickness.
- d. *Access to the school will be limited to staff and students, with some exceptions.* In Stage 3, parents/caregivers will be encouraged to conduct business virtually. Payments can be made online or by phone when possible. In-person meetings and service may be arranged by appointment. All visitors will be masked and practice hand hygiene.
- e. *The playground will be open for use.*
- f. *Drop-offs and pick-ups will be supervised and students will enter/exit at their designated entrance.* Kindergarten students should enter and exit at the blue doors. Grade 1-3 students should enter and exit at their regular doors. Grade 4-5 students should enter at their regular door. Grade 6/7 students should enter at the door outside the science lab after/before high school students are in the hall. Grade 8-12 students should enter the main entrance of the school.

CLEAN with Care

Environmental cleaning and disinfection, and personal hygiene measures prevent indirect transmission from contaminated surfaces.

Specifically, within the PreK-12 setting of Bulkley Valley Christian School, this means:

1. Regular cleaning and disinfecting

- a. Professional, general cleaning and disinfecting **once a day**.
- b. *Targeted cleaning and disinfecting of frequently-touched surfaces **twice per day**.* This includes door knobs, light switches, toilet handles, desks, tables, and chairs.

2. Practicing hand hygiene

- a. *Hand washing will take place at all significant transitions, including: start/end of day, between activities in high contact areas, in the gym, before and after snacks and outdoor play.*
- b. *Rigorous hand washing with soap and water; hand-sanitizing when necessary.* Approved alcohol-based hand rub will be made available in locations where hand washing is not easily accessible.

3. Removing or limiting items not easily cleaned

- a. Classroom materials (soft toys, etc.) and furniture that are not easily cleaned and/or disinfected will be removed from classrooms. Students will be encouraged to limit materials that they bring to school to essential school supplies and snacks.

4. Limiting shared materials and technology

- a. Although paper-based learning resources are not deemed to be a risk, students will generally be discouraged from sharing school supplies (pencils, calculators, etc.). All shared technology will be cleaned twice a day as per cleaning schedule.

5. Sharing of food and drink will be prohibited.

- a. Water fountains will be used minimally, and only when no other water source is available.
- b. Individual water bottles may be filled at stations around the school.

Additional Measures as per updated Health and Safety Measures - Feb 4, 2021

1. All K-12 staff must be masked except in the following situations:
 - a. When seated at their workstations or desks
 - b. When eating or drinking
 - c. When protected by barriers
 - d. When outside
2. All Grade 8-12 students (the 6/7 class is considered elementary) are required to be masked except in the following situations:
 - a. When seated at their workstations or desks – desks should be spaced apart as much as possible
 - b. When eating or drinking
 - c. When outside
 - d. PE and extra-curricular activities have their own guidelines which will be communicated by the coach/Mr. Horner
 - e. Students who are unable to mask for developmental reasons are exempt but other safety measures should be taken – cleaning, social distancing when possible, et
3. When inside, staff who are not part of a cohort must practice social distancing from students not in their cohort. Masking is not a substitute for social distancing.
4. Staff should maintain social distancing from other staff. Masking is not a substitute for social distancing
5. Especially for middle and high school classrooms, seating arrangements should not be face-to-face
6. When possible, all meetings should be virtual or ensure social distancing – masks are not a substitute for social distancing

7. Grade 5-12 students must wear masks on the school bus, even if students are in the same cohort
8. Staff should complete health checks before entering the school. If a staff member becomes sick during the day, they should go home as soon as possible and isolate from students and other staff. Administration should be contacted immediately, preferable via cellphone
9. Staff needs to practice social distancing in common staff areas, including staff rooms, even if within the same cohort
10. Staff health checks must be completed before entering the school
11. Students should not be required to wear a mask if they do not tolerate it (for health or behavioural reasons). Schools are encouraged to support student mask use through positive and inclusive approaches, and not punitive measures or enforcement activities that exclude students from fully participating in school or that could result in stigma.