



ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL COVID-19 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION GUIDELINES

Updated January 2022

OBJECTIVES

All schools are to adhere to the standards, guidelines and protocols from the BC Centre for Disease Control and WorkSafe BC. Communicable disease prevention focuses on reducing the risk of workplace transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases and includes both ongoing measures (i.e. hand hygiene, cleaning) and additional measures to be implemented as advised by public health authorities.

These guidelines are intended to support K-12 education employees, students, parents, caregivers, administrators and school community members to:

- Work and learn in a healthy and safe environment
- Be informed about public health measures
- Understand the roles and responsibilities in promoting public health and safety in the school setting.

This updated Communicable Disease Plan is implemented to implement the additional prevention measures outlined by the Provincial Health Officer for January 2022. This document supersedes the measures outlined in the previous plan (September 2021).

St. Patrick's School will support the implementation of personal prevention practices through:

- Providing regular reminders to students, families, and staff about the importance of completing a daily health check, staying home when sick and following public health recommendations.
- Having staff demonstrate and model how to practice personal prevention measures at school (e.g., wearing a mask, hand hygiene, etc.).
- Sharing trusted information from the BC Centre for Disease Control.

Additional Measures:

Entrance & Exits, Space Arrangements	<p>Classes will continue to use different entrances and exits to lessen the number of people going through an area.</p> <p>Each class will have a separate area for handwashing.</p> <p>Grade Sevens have been moved to the gym for handwashing to alleviate the numbers in the main hallway.</p> <p>At the end of the day, we will have staggered dismissal times.</p> <p>K-Gr 3 will be dismissed at 2:45 Gr 4-7 will be dismissed at 2:55 Please collect your children as soon as possible and vacate the blacktop area.</p>
Staff-Only Gatherings	<p>All staff meetings, in-service and professional development activities will be virtual.</p>
Itinerant Staff, Temporary Teachers on Call and Other Visitors	<p>All Teachers on Call (TOC) will be made aware of the additional measures.</p> <p>Visitors are limited to those supporting activities that are of direct benefit to student learning (Therapists, medical services, library and hot lunch volunteers).</p>
Gatherings & Events	<p>All school gatherings and events will be held virtually.</p> <p>In the event that sport teams can continue to play other schools, spectators will not be allowed.</p>
Extracurricular Activities	<p>All after school activities (art club, games club) will be suspended.</p>
Hand Hygiene	<p>Students will continue to hand wash/sanitize upon entering the buildings at the various hand washing stations (at the start of the day, after recess, before eating snack/lunch).</p> <p>Sanitization stations are also available throughout</p>

	the school.
Environmental Measures	
Learning Space Configuration	<p>Learning spaces are arranged to maximize the space available and to avoid people directly facing one another (where possible).</p> <p>Classrooms are set up in rows, as opposed to groups.</p>
Increased Cleaning & Disinfecting	<p>Frequently touched surfaces continue to be cleaned and disinfected with regularity.</p> <p>Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces are done as needed (ie table tops, desks).</p> <p>Other general cleaning occurs regularly (ie sweeping, mopping, sanitizing with the fogging machine).</p>
Ventilation & Air Exchange	All HVAC filters have been checked and maintained prior to the reopening and classroom air purifiers have been serviced.
Personal Measures	
Daily Health Checks	Parents and students are reminded of their responsibility to complete daily health checks.
Stay Home When Sick	<p>Staff and students are asked to stay home when they are feeling sick and showing any symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fever higher than 38°C - Chills - Cough - Loss of sense of smell or taste - Difficulty breathing - Sore throat - Loss of appetite - Extreme fatigue or tiredness - Headache - Body aches - Nausea or vomiting

	- Diarrhea
Symptoms Develop at School	<p>If symptoms develop at school, students must be brought to the office and an emergency contact will be called to pick up the child.</p> <p>If a staff member develops symptoms, they are to let the administrator know to get coverage for the class/student and they must leave immediately.</p>
Personal Protective Equipment	
Masks	<p>There are exemptions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People with health conditions or with physical, cognitive or mental impairments who cannot wear a mask. ● People who cannot remove a mask on their own. ● Children under the age of 5. ● People who need to remove their masks to communicate due to another person's hearing impairment. <p>A face shield is not a substitute for a mask as it has an opening below the mouth.</p>
Personal Prevention Practices	<p>Strategies are in place to routinely support students to practice personal prevention measures such as, wearing masks, washing/sanitizing of hands, distancing from others.</p> <p>These can be seen in signage around the school and announcements.</p>
Personal Space	<p>Encouraging staff and students to consider and respect others personal space.</p> <p>Placing limits on smaller spaces where distancing can be difficult, such as the library, the atrium and staff room.</p>

Positive and Inclusive Approaches

Encouraging approaches for staff and students to comply with the mandates by using positive and inclusive approaches.