

# Delta School District



## Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

## *Table of Contents*

### Contents

KEY PREVENTION MEASURES – SEPTEMBER 2022 .....	3
PURPOSE OF THIS COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN .....	4
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND REFERENCE TO OTHER DOCUMENTS .....	4
WHAT IS COMMUNICABLE DISEASE? .....	4
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES .....	6
RISK IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT .....	7
RISK CONTROL .....	7
RESPONDING TO ELEVATED RISK .....	8
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION CONTROLS.....	9
MONITORING, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REVIEW .....	12
Appendix A: Common Communicable Diseases and Symptoms .....	13
Appendix B: What to do if a Student or Staff Member Develops Symptoms.....	14
Appendix C: Handwashing Poster .....	15

## KEY PREVENTION MEASURES – SEPTEMBER 2022

As the concern for COVID-19 decreases it is important that the District continues its effort in preventing the spread and transmission of communicable diseases in our schools and workplaces. This will be achieved by continuing to follow these communicable disease prevention measures and protocols.

Communicable Disease Prevention Measures		
<i>Vaccines</i>	Vaccines are important tools to protect against many serious communicable diseases. Vaccination protects from serious illness, including COVID-19 and is the most effective way to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our communities.	All staff and students are encouraged to ensure that they are up to date on all recommended vaccines for communicable diseases, including COVID-19
<i>Hand Hygiene</i>	Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water or using an effective hand sanitizer reduces the spread of illness. Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene and schools should facilitate regular opportunities for students and staff to wash their hands.	All staff, students and visitors are encouraged to wash or disinfect their hands frequently, especially before and after eating, after touching frequently touched surfaces or when hands are visibly soiled
<i>Cleaning and Disinfecting</i>	Regular cleaning and disinfection can help prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces should occur in line with regular practices and when visibly dirty	District schools and sites will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with BCCDC guidelines
<i>Health Checks and Awareness</i>	Staff, students, and visitors should not come to school if they are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities. School administrators can support this practice by communicating the importance of everyone doing a health check.	<p>All staff, students and visitors must regularly check themselves for signs and symptoms of illness</p> <p>Anyone exhibiting new symptoms of illness (including COVID-19) should stay home and follow <a href="#">BCCDC guidance</a>.</p> <p>See <b>Appendix B</b> for more details on what do should staff or students become ill at school</p>
<i>Personal Practices</i>	<p>The decision to wear a mask beyond when it is recommended by public health is a personal one, based on individual preference.</p> <p>Some students and staff may choose to continue to wear a non-medical mask or face covering throughout the day or for certain activities.</p>	<p>The District supports the personal choice to wear a mask or other face covering.</p> <p>It is important to be respectful and kind of other's choices.</p>

## PURPOSE OF THIS COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN

The purpose of this Communicable Disease Prevention Plan is to protect District employees, students, parents/guardians, volunteers, visitors, and contractors by providing appropriate information that can be used to prevent and reduce the risk of contracting and transmitting communicable diseases in District schools and sites.

## REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND REFERENCE TO OTHER DOCUMENTS

This plan aligns with the intent and definition of the:

- [B.C. Workers Compensation Act](#)
- [B.C. Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#)
- [BC Ministry of Health Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings \(August 25, 2022\)](#)
- [BCCDC Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools \(August 25, 2022\)](#)

## WHAT IS COMMUNICABLE DISEASE?

A communicable disease is an illness caused by an infectious agent that can be transmitted by contact with infected individuals or their bodily discharges or fluids or by contact with contaminated surfaces or objects. Examples of communicable diseases that may circulate in a workplace include the common cold and seasonal influenza as well as norovirus-like illnesses and chickenpox.

Communicable diseases are most commonly spread from an infected person through:

- Respiratory droplets when a person coughs or sneezes.
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.
- Touching something with virus on it, then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands.

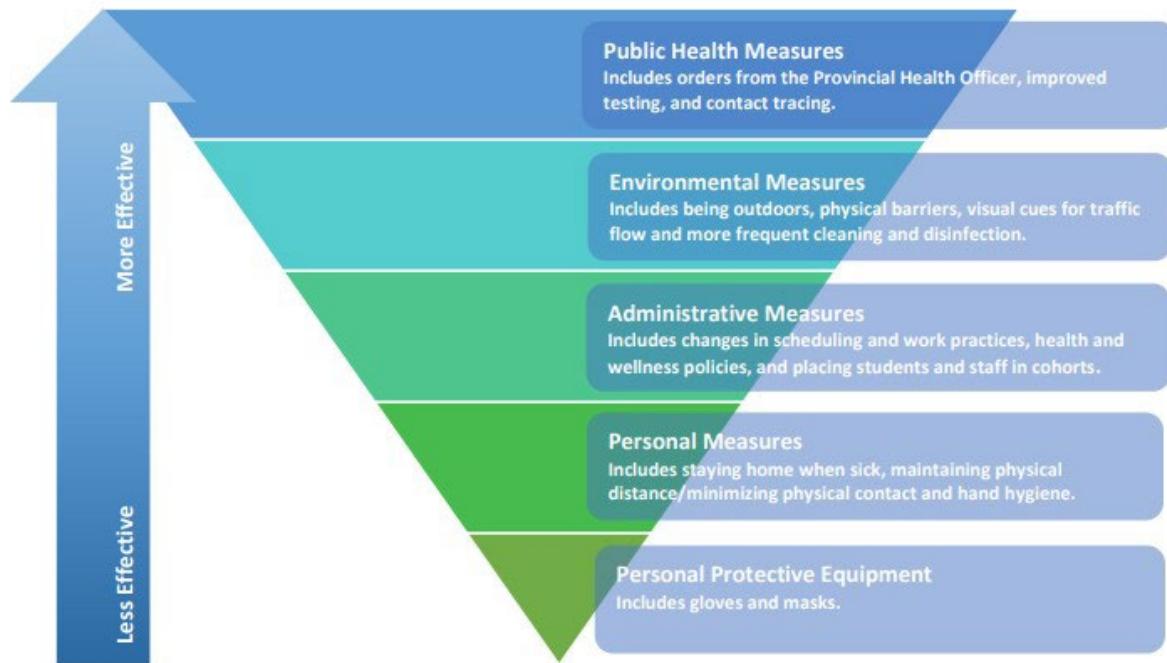
See Appendix A for a list of common communicable diseases and their associated symptoms.

For more information on common childhood communicable diseases, refer to the [BCCDC Quick Guide for Common Childhood Diseases](#)

### *Selection of Control Measures*

To reduce the risk of communicable disease transmission in District schools and worksites, a variety of control measures will be implemented. Whenever possible, the District will select control measures that provide the best/widest protection to all staff and students first. Should those control measures not be feasible or practicable, control measures will be selected from the next level of protection. Personal protective equipment will only be used if other control measures are not possible or practicable.

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



## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### *District Leadership (Superintendents, Directors)*

- Select, implement, and document risk assessments and appropriate site-specific control measures.
- Ensure that all resources (information, authorization administrative changes, technology, training, human resources) and materials (personal protective equipment, equipment, cleaning and disinfecting products and systems) required to implement and maintain the safety plan are reasonably available as practical when required.
- Ensure that all District staff are informed about the content of safety policies.
- Conduct a periodic review of the effectiveness of the plan. This includes a review of work practices and the available control technologies to ensure that these are selected and used when practical.
- Maintain a record of all visitors, including name, contact info and date/time of visit

### *Supervisors (Principals/Administrators)*

- Ensure that workers are knowledgeable regarding the controls required to minimize their risk of exposure to communicable diseases, especially COVID-19
- Advise staff and students to not attend work or school when exhibiting signs and symptoms of illness
- Direct work in a manner that eliminates or minimizes the risk to workers.
- Post or and distribute educational and informational material in an accessible area for workers to review.
- Maintain records of training and inspections.

### *District Staff*

- Know the prevention measures required to minimize their risk of exposure to communicable diseases
- Follow established work procedures and instructions as directed by the employer or supervisor.
- Report any unsafe conditions or acts to the supervisor.
- Know how and when to report exposure incidents.
- Perform a check for signs and symptoms of illness prior to reporting to work
- Stay home if signs and symptoms of illness are present. Do not return to work until symptoms have resolved

### *Students/Parents/Families*

- Check students for signs and symptoms of illness prior to arrival at school.
- Stay home if signs and symptoms of illness are present. Do not return to school until symptoms have resolved
- Have a plan for the pick-up of their child if the child shows symptoms of illness at school

## RISK IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

Public health advises that the risk of communicable diseases in schools generally parallels that of the community within which the school is located. For example, if colds or influenza are prevalent in the community, then these illnesses will be seen in schools and among staff and students.

Our experience in B.C. during the 2020-21 school year, which aligned with evidence gathered nationally and internationally, saw schools as lower-risk environments for COVID-19 transmission when infection prevention and exposure control measures (also called prevention measures) were in place. *WorkSafeBC* guidance for communicable disease prevention plans requires that employers remain informed of developing communicable disease issues.

The list of common communicable diseases and symptoms is provided in **Appendix A** as a general reference to common communicable diseases. This list, risk identification, and assessment is not exhaustive. Rather, it provides an overview of some of the communicable diseases that are observed in K-12 schools and worksites and which concern both staff and students. The use of vaccines and other preventative controls contribute to lowering the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases.

## RISK CONTROL

The District implements communicable disease prevention controls to mitigate the risks of exposure. Communicable disease controls are categorized into a hierarchy of effectiveness. The controls listed here and implemented in the District or community, effectively control periodic communicable disease events.

1. **Elimination:** Remove the hazard, the communicable disease, from the workplace. These include:
  - Support public health's delivery of routine childhood immunizations.
  - Support public health's delivery of immunizations/vaccinations for emerging diseases (e.g., SARS, H1N1, COVID-19, etc.) to suppress viral transmission in the community as a whole.
  - Follow Public Health Orders aimed to restrict hazardous environments both work and school.
2. **Engineering Controls:** Contain the hazard or reduce the risk with an engineered control. These include:
  - Provision of barriers (such as plexiglass when supported by public health) as per public health guidance and when deemed necessary.
  - Well maintained ventilation systems as per Ministry of Education guidance. The district continues to run mechanical systems longer, let in more outside air, and maximize occupant control.
  - Upgrading indoor air filtration with MERV 13 air filters (where possible).
  - Placement or installation of hand sanitation stations.

3. **Administrative controls:** Reduce the risk through organizational processes, procedures, or behaviour changes of employees and/or students. These include:
  - Promote health awareness and encourage staff/students/visitors to stay home when sick.
  - Remind staff and students to respect the personal space of others.
  - Reinforce diligent respiratory etiquette for coughs and sneezes.
  - Reinforcement of diligent hand hygiene and provide supplies as appropriate for the setting.
  - Clean general facility surfaces, high touch surfaces, and shared equipment.
  - Adhere to occupancy limits indoors in large gathering spaces (e.g., post in gyms, auditoriums) or in all staff spaces based on commonsense limits which avoid overcrowding.
  - Communicate information on hazards and controls to staff, students, parents, and visitors as well as signage of expected actions or required procedures.
4. **Personal protective equipment (PPE)** reduces risk of contact with infectious agents. These include:
  - The use of cloth mask or disposable non-medical mask is a personal choice of all occupants.
  - Disposable non-medical facemasks for certain occupational tasks
  - Face shields or goggles (as needed for occupational task e.g., spitting behaviour or an additional COVID-19 specific measure).
  - Gloves - as needed by occupational task (e.g., first aid, personal care, etc.)
  - Gowns - as needed by occupational task (e.g., personal care)

## RESPONDING TO ELEVATED RISK

From time to time, public health may advise of elevated risk of a specific communicable disease transmission in a particular workplace(s) or context(s). Where public health has advised of an elevated risk of communicable disease transmission relevant to an employer's workplace, region, or industry, employers must take steps to assess the risk in the workplace and to follow the necessary measures to the extent practicable as provided by public health.

In addition, school administrators should note elevated student absenteeism (over 10% above typical absenteeism in a school or class) and report it to the District Health and Safety Officer. Health and Safety follows up on all reports of elevated absenteeism with common reasons (e.g., student is away with rash, vomiting, fever, flu-like symptoms, etc.) and contacts the Fraser Health Public Health Unit to determine if any school-based or public health action is required.



## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION CONTROLS

The District has put in place a number of risk-control measures for the prevention of various communicable diseases covered by this Plan. The following describes these measures. It is important to remember that these are long-term and ongoing prevention procedures that are to be conducted daily and apply in all schools/sites in the District.

Ongoing and Daily Communicable Disease Prevention Measures	
Stay Home if Sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff, students, parents, volunteers, and visitors must stay home from school or work if they are sick or have new or worsening symptoms of any communicable disease (e.g., cold/flu like symptoms, rash, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, loss of sense of taste or smell, etc.). Similarly, they must go home without delay should they develop symptoms while at school/work.</li> <li>See <b>Appendix B</b> for more details on what do should staff or students become ill at school</li> <li>Current BCCDC guidance for COVID-19 can be found here: <a href="http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19">http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19</a></li> <li>For general short-term illness, including COVID-19, a doctor's note is not required before returning to work</li> </ul>
Health Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff, students and their parents, and visitors, must conduct a personal Health Check for signs and symptoms of illness (e.g., fever, nausea, cough, etc.) <u>before</u> arriving to a school or workplace in order to determine if they have new or worsening symptoms and must stay home from school or work if they do.</li> <li>All school-based staff must report to the school office any students who develop new or worsening symptoms of a communicable disease during the school day and ensure the student is transferred to the health room and supervised/cared for while they await pick-up by their parent.</li> </ul>
Respiratory Etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff, students and other people within a school or workplace are expected to practice diligent and proper respiratory etiquette. This includes covering coughs and sneezes with their elbow or a single use tissue, appropriate disposal of any used tissues or disposable masks into garbage bins, and practicing proper hand hygiene afterwards.</li> </ul>
Hand Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness (antibacterial soap is not needed). If hands are soiled, hand washing is superior to hand sanitizing. Hand washing with soap under running water for 20 seconds is reinforced with staff and students.</li> <li>Hand washing stations and/or hand sanitizer have been supplied to classrooms, offices, lunch areas, and certain common areas as determined by the school administrator with recommendations from the Site H&amp;S Committee.</li> <li>Staff should assist younger students with hand hygiene as needed</li> <li>The District uses <i>Health Canada</i> approved hand sanitizing products.</li> <li>Proper and frequent hand hygiene is essential, is encouraged and reinforced (e.g., staff reminders, posters) and must be completed at several times throughout the school or worksite.</li> <li>Hand sanitizer bottles will be supplied by the custodian upon request the first time only.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand sanitizer in gallons will be delivered to the school administration office and will be kept in the office available for refilling small bottles.</li> <li>Teachers/classroom staff will refill their own bottles as and when required.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Hand Hygiene (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following table outlines when staff and students are to practice hand hygiene.</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="316 191 945 268">When Students Should Perform Hand Hygiene:</th><th data-bbox="945 191 1557 268">When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene:</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 268 945 814"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When they arrive at school.</li> <li>Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).</li> <li>Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk or locker).</li> <li>Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple cohorts (e.g. the gym, music room, science lab, etc.).</li> <li>After using the toilet.</li> <li>After sneezing or coughing into hands.</li> <li>Whenever hands are visibly dirty.</li> </ul> </td><td data-bbox="945 268 1557 814"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When they arrive at school.</li> <li>Before and after any breaks (e.g. recess, lunch).</li> <li>Before and after eating and drinking.</li> <li>Before and after handling food or assisting students with eating.</li> <li>Before and after giving medication to a student or self.</li> <li>After using the toilet.</li> <li>After contact with body fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood).</li> <li>After cleaning tasks.</li> <li>After removing gloves.</li> <li>After handling garbage.</li> <li>Whenever hands are visibly dirty.</li> </ul> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See <b>Appendix C</b> for a handwashing poster that can be posted at sinks and washing areas.</li> </ul>	When Students Should Perform Hand Hygiene:	When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When they arrive at school.</li> <li>Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).</li> <li>Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk or locker).</li> <li>Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple cohorts (e.g. the gym, music room, science lab, etc.).</li> <li>After using the toilet.</li> <li>After sneezing or coughing into hands.</li> <li>Whenever hands are visibly dirty.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When they arrive at school.</li> <li>Before and after any breaks (e.g. recess, lunch).</li> <li>Before and after eating and drinking.</li> <li>Before and after handling food or assisting students with eating.</li> <li>Before and after giving medication to a student or self.</li> <li>After using the toilet.</li> <li>After contact with body fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood).</li> <li>After cleaning tasks.</li> <li>After removing gloves.</li> <li>After handling garbage.</li> <li>Whenever hands are visibly dirty.</li> </ul>
When Students Should Perform Hand Hygiene:	When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When they arrive at school.</li> <li>Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).</li> <li>Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk or locker).</li> <li>Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple cohorts (e.g. the gym, music room, science lab, etc.).</li> <li>After using the toilet.</li> <li>After sneezing or coughing into hands.</li> <li>Whenever hands are visibly dirty.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When they arrive at school.</li> <li>Before and after any breaks (e.g. recess, lunch).</li> <li>Before and after eating and drinking.</li> <li>Before and after handling food or assisting students with eating.</li> <li>Before and after giving medication to a student or self.</li> <li>After using the toilet.</li> <li>After contact with body fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood).</li> <li>After cleaning tasks.</li> <li>After removing gloves.</li> <li>After handling garbage.</li> <li>Whenever hands are visibly dirty.</li> </ul>				
General Cleaning of the School or Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools will be cleaned and disinfected as per BCCDC guidance for public schools.</li> <li>District Facilities staff will conduct general cleaning of the premise (e.g., school or site flooring, garbage removal, cleaning visibly dirty surfaces, etc.) once a day.</li> <li>School staff are to contact the school office for assistance from custodial staff in cleaning up body fluid spills (e.g., blood, stool, urine, vomit).</li> <li>Cleaning and disinfecting supplies are provided to other staff in order to spot clean as they deem necessary.</li> <li>Disinfectant bottles will be supplied upon request and will be refilled by the custodian upon request only. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When a teacher/classroom staff requests for a disinfectant bottle the first time, custodians will let the teachers know that it will be only refilled upon request. This process should be discussed well to avoid any issues.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				
Cleaning and Disinfecting Frequently Touched Surfaces/Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least once a day.</li> <li>District Facilities staff will clean and disinfect the following frequently touched surfaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Items used by larger numbers of students and staff, including doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, water fountains, faucet handles, toilet handles.</li> <li>Service counters (e.g., office reception counters, library circulation desk)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Staff who use or introduce shared equipment or, in secondary schools or adult education, the students who use the equipment, will clean and disinfect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Items such as shared computer keyboards and tablets, dishes and kitchen equipment, PE/sports equipment, music equipment, etc.</li> <li>Appliances which are shared such as microwaves, refrigerators, coffee pots/machines, etc.</li> <li>Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g., water bottles, instrument mouth pieces, dishes, certain toys, and manipulatives) or that have been in contact with body fluids should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between use by others.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>NOTE:</u></p>				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequently touched items like toys or manipulatives that may not be able to be cleaned often (e.g. fabrics) or at all (e.g. sand, foam, playdough, water tables, etc.) can be used, when hand hygiene is practiced before and after use.</li> <li>Carpets and rugs (e.g. in Kindergarten and <i>StrongStart</i> classes) can be used.</li> </ul>
Cleaning and Disinfecting Frequently Touched Surfaces/Items (con't)	<p><u>Cleaning and Disinfecting Blood and Body Fluids</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Custodial staff follow these procedures, when cleaning and disinfecting bodily fluids (e.g., vomit, stool, urine): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff will wear disposable gloves when cleaning blood and body fluids.</li> <li>Wash hands before/after putting on/taking off gloves.</li> <li>Use paper towel to clean up solid and liquid matter.</li> <li>Disinfect the item or surface once the surface it has been cleaned.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Laundry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff are to follow these procedures when doing laundry (e.g., Home Economics, Physical and Health Education, Life Skills Programs, etc.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laundry should be placed in a laundry basket with a plastic liner. Do not shake dirty items.</li> <li>Wearing gloves is optional. If choosing to wear gloves, ensure hand hygiene is performed before and after use. No other PPE is required.</li> <li>Wash with regular laundry soap and hot water (60-90°C).</li> <li>Proper hand hygiene is required after.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Ventilation and Air Conditioning	<p>IMPORTANT: Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Systems (“HVAC systems”) that operate properly do not contribute to the spread of communicable diseases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District Facilities staff follow guidelines from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air- Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). The District regularly checks ASHRAE for operational updates and will make adjustments, as needed.</li> <li>Where building systems allow, the District has followed the <a href="#">ASHRAE Position Document on Infectious Aerosols</a> (April 2020) in supporting control of communicable disease and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased run-times for ventilated spaces – starting two hours prior to occupancy and run two hours past end of occupancy (when practical).</li> <li>Maximized the amount of outdoor air supplied within the capacity of the heating systems.</li> <li>Filtered the air with MERV-13 filters wherever the ventilation equipment allows it.</li> <li>Provided maximum possible occupant control over rooms by ensuring windows and any venting louvres (if applicable) are functional and operating.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Staff are encouraged to move activities outdoors when possible (e.g., lunch, classes, physical activity, etc) and consider moving classrooms outside when space and weather permit</li> <li>When using fans in ventilated spaces, air should be moved from high places to lower places and do not blow air directly from one person’s breathing zone towards another.</li> <li>Avoid cross breezes.</li> </ul>

## MONITORING, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REVIEW

### Monitoring

The District's Site Health and Safety Committees are active participants in employee health and safety. They monitor, inspect, review, and recommend improvements, including on communicable disease control measures at sites. As well, the District Occupational Health and Safety Committee considers, reviews, and recommends on district-wide issues, including those on communicable disease control.

The District Health and Safety department monitors activities in schools and workplaces, and ensures the Plan covers current requirements, contains current information, and addresses any concerns identified.

### Communication, Education and Training

The District has established the following means of sharing information with staff, students, parents, and others across the organization and in the general public:

#### *Information*

- Health and safety information is posted on the District webpage and staff, parents, and others are encouraged to regularly check back to the [SD37 webpage](#) for updates or new information on COVID-19 and variants of concern.
- District staff will receive updates which impact them regarding COVID-19 on a regular basis via the District or school administrators/managers
- Students and parents will receive informational emails.
- All parties are encouraged to visit the [SD37 webpage](#) for up to date and current of the District Communicable Disease Prevention Plan.

#### *Training and Instruction*

- School administrators/managers will ensure that staff and students are aware of the District Communicable Disease Prevention plan and the prevention protocols to be followed to minimize the transmission in District schools/sites
- Visitors will be provided information/protocols prior entry to the school/site.

#### *Review*

The District Communicable Disease Prevention plan, is a living document and subject to changes and updates. This Plan will be reviewed periodically and/or when there is a significant change in risk, and when there are changes to public health, BC Ministry of Education and BCCDC guidance documents and instructions for the prevention of communicable diseases. For a current version of this Plan visit the [SD37 webpage](#).

## Appendix A: Common Communicable Diseases and Symptoms

This Communicable Disease Prevention Plan, including COVID-19 prevention procedures covers the following respiratory illnesses; all could be encountered in our schools/sites. The listed illnesses share common control measures such as the need for a health check before attending and stay home if sick, practice diligent hand hygiene, and practice proper respiratory etiquette.

Illness	Status and Level of Incidence	Description of Symptoms
Common cold (viral)	Endemic, Moderate levels of incidence	Symptoms: fever; cough; runny nose and sneezing.  Transmission: person-to-person via droplets, coughing, sneezing, or talking; sharing items; touching contaminated objects.
Influenza	Endemic, Moderate levels of incidence  *Annual Vaccine Available	Symptoms: fever; cough; sore throat; runny or stuffy nose; muscle/body aches; headaches; fatigue; sometimes vomiting and diarrhea  Transmission: person-to-person via droplets, coughing, sneezing, or talking; sharing items; touching contaminated objects
COVID-19	Pandemic, likely transitioning to Endemic, Moderate levels of incidence  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.  Transmission: Person-to-person via droplets, coughing, sneezing, or talking; sharing items; touching contaminated objects.
Pneumococcal Disease	Endemic, Moderate levels of incidence  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms of pneumococcal pneumonia: fever and chills; cough; rapid breathing or difficulty breathing; and chest pain. Symptoms pneumococcal meningitis: stiff neck; fever; headache; photophobia; confusion. Symptoms of pneumococcal bacteremia: fever; chills; low alertness; transmission.  Transmission: Direct contact with respiratory secretions, like saliva or mucus.
Chicken Pox	Endemic, Moderate levels of incidence  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms: fever; cough; muscle ache; body rash.  Transmission: Person-to-person via breathing, coughs or sneezes; contact with fluid of a chickenpox blister.
Measles	Disease under elimination  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms: Fever; runny nose; watery eyes; reds spots in mouth; red rash on face and body.  Transmission: Person-to-person via droplets in air, coughing, sneezing, or talking.
Mumps	Endemic, Low levels of incidence  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms: Swollen glands near ears or under jaw; fever; headache, ear ache.  Transmission: Person-to-person droplets in air, coughing, sneezing, or talking; contact with saliva.
Rubella (German Measles)	Disease under elimination  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms: Red or pink rash on face and body; swollen glands behind ears; slight fever; joint pain.  Transmission: Person-to-person via droplets coughed, sneezed, or breathed into air; contact with discharge from nose.
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	Endemic, Moderate levels of incidence  *Vaccine Available	Symptoms early stages: runny nose; low-grade fever; mild, occasional cough. Symptoms later stages: coughing fits followed by a high-pitched "whoop" sound; vomiting during or after coughing fits and exhaustion after coughing fits.  Transmission: Person-to-person via droplets coughed, sneezed, or breathed into air in close spaces.
*Norovirus	Endemic, Low levels of incidence	Symptoms: upset stomach; vomiting; diarrhea; cramping; chills or mild fever.  Transmission: touching contaminated objects/food and touching nose/mouth.  (*Note: Not a respiratory disease. However, prevention measures for norovirus are the same as for other listed communicable diseases and norovirus is seasonally experienced in some K-12 schools).

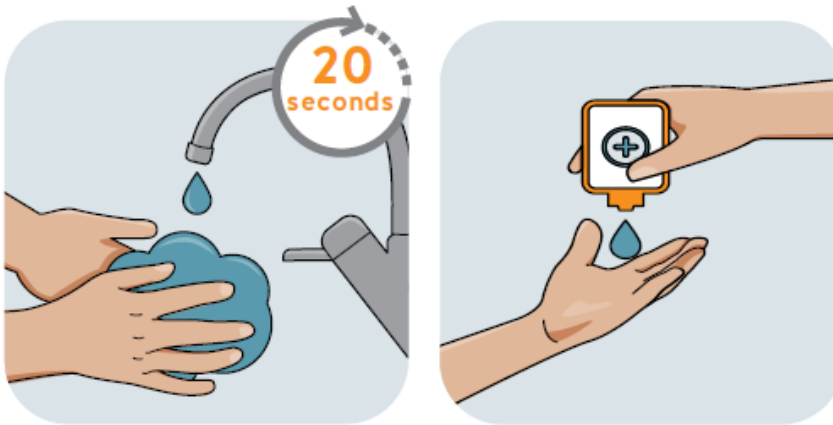
For more detailed information on common childhood communicable diseases, refer to the [BCCDC guide for Common Childhood Communicable Diseases](#)



## Appendix B: What to do if a Student or Staff Member Develops Symptoms

<i>If a Student Develops Any Symptoms of Illness</i>	<i>If a Staff Member Develops Any Symptoms of Illness</i>
<p><b>Parents or caregivers must keep the student at home</b></p> <p><b>IF STUDENT DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL:</b></p> <p><b>Staff must take the following steps:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Immediately separate the symptomatic student from others in a supervised area.</li> <li>2. Contact the student's parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible.</li> <li>3. Where possible, maintain a 2-metre distance from the ill student. If not possible, staff should wear a non-medical mask or face covering if available and tolerated, or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth.</li> <li>4. Provide the student with a non-medical mask or tissues to cover their coughs or sneezes. Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene.</li> <li>5. Avoid touching the student's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva). If you do, practice diligent hand hygiene.</li> <li>6. Once the student is picked up, practice diligent hand hygiene.</li> <li>7. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated and any areas recently used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).</li> </ol> <p>Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.</p>	<p><b>Staff must stay home</b></p> <p><b>IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT WORK:</b></p> <p><b>Staff should go home as soon as possible.</b></p> <p>If unable to leave immediately:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Symptomatic staff should separate themselves into an area away from others.</li> <li>2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.</li> <li>3. Use a tissue or mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait to be picked up.</li> <li>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).</li> </ol>

# Prevent the spread of communicable disease



**Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.**

## **Wash your hands:**

- When you arrive at work
- Before and after going on a break
- After using the washroom
- After handling cash or other materials that have come into contact with the public
- Before and after handling shared tools and equipment
- Before and after using masks or other personal protective equipment