

VSIE Communicable Disease Plan

Personal Measures

- Staff, parents, and students are regularly reminded of their responsibility to do a daily health check and encouraged to use the app if that is a supportive practice. [COVID-19 Daily Health Check website](#)
- Staff and students are reminded to stay home when sick and are encouraged to use the BC Self assessment tool.
- Health Care providers are not required to confirm any doctors notes etc for re-entry at school.
- Schools will support students to consider and respect others personal space. Personal space is the distance from which a person feels comfortable being next to another person.
- Respect human's comfort levels regarding personal space
- All K-12 staff are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses.
- Public health strongly encourages all eligible students and staff to be fully vaccinated (i.e., receive 2 doses) against COVID-19. This is a personal family choice, and we at VSIE intend to honour people's private health choices.
- Students and parents will be encouraged to continue to pick up at the school in a quick, efficient manner after school.
- All staff, adult volunteers, visitors and students should wear a non-medical mask or face covering (a "mask") at all times while indoors at school and on buses. No student should be prevented from attending or fully participating at school if they do not wear a mask. Mask wearing is subject to the following exceptions: [\(Please see MOE document to support mask wearing\)](#)
 - If a person is unable to wear a mask because they don't tolerate it (for health or behavioural reasons*);
 - If a person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
 - If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
 - If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. actively playing a wind instrument, high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
 - If a person is eating or drinking;
 - If a person is behind a barrier (e.g., a divider, a cubicle, or in a room by themselves);
 - While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.

Supportive Community measures

- Hand-washing facilities are on each floor. Staff and students will wash hands upon entering the school building, before and after breaks, after using the toilet, before and after eating, before and after handling common tools and equipment, after sneezing or coughing into hands or a tissue and before and after using an indoor learning space used by other students.
- As much as possible, materials will not be shared and each student will have their own supplies. As well, hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.
- If a student develops symptoms at school, the student will be immediately separated from others in a supervised area (downstairs office) and parents will be contacted to pick up their child as soon as possible. The student will be provided with a non-medical mask. The area

where the student was separated and any areas recently used by them will be cleaned and disinfected. If a parent cannot be contacted within 20 minutes, the school will call the next person on their contact list. Parents must be mindful that all persons on their contact list for emergency pick-up are not at unusual risk for COVID-19, i.e. immunocompromised or elderly.

- In learning environments, schools can return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches. Use all available space. Cohorts/learning groups are no longer recommended. They are also not expected to be an additional prevention measure for regional recommendations.
- A practice already in place to prevent crowding during transition times. In the primary building, classes will enter one by one to eliminate congested traffic. For the intermediate building, Grade 4 /5 will use their door to enter and exit and the staff and Grade 3 /4 will use the front door. The middle school use the side door with an adult having 4 or 5 students enter the building at a time to minimize congestion.
- Visitors must follow the school's communicable disease plan, including completing a daily health check and not entering the school if they are sick. Schools should continue to keep a list of the date, names, and contact information of all visitors who enter the school for 45 days following their visit. Visitor's will be limited to those that are supporting activities to directly benefit student learning. Tours will be done virtually or primarily outside.
- Schools continue to be encouraged to support student mask use through positive and inclusive approaches, and not punitive or enforcement activities that exclude students from fully participating in school or that could result in stigma. Schools are also encouraged to ensure there are opportunities throughout the day for students to remove their masks (like providing opportunities to go outside if weather allows).

Public Health Measures

- Maintain daily attendance of staff, students, and visitors on file for 45 days.
- When visitors attend VSIE they will need to ensure they sign in, wear a mask, keep personal distance and follow any provincial protocols set in place by the Ministry of Health Officer.
- If a student, staff or other person who has been in the school is confirmed to be a COVID-19 case, the medical health officer will be consulted. If the medical health officer determines the person was infectious while at the school or infected at the school, he/she will coordinate with the school to determine follow up protocol
- Sporting events are paused at this time.

Environmental Measures

- Air systems are HVAC and working properly to filter air, with regular maintenance.
- Please see handbook for policy on wildfire smoke response plan to address air quality concerns.
- When there is excessive heat events, we will minimize outside time for students. This means cancelling all day outdoor field trips and choosing to do PE inside. Students will attend recess outdoors, if they are comfortable and able to do so. In addition, we will increase reminders to drink water and use the HVAC systems for cooling the school.
- Portable air conditioners and fans are only used in ventilated spaces and air should be moved from high to low.
- Frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected daily.

- Protocols are in place to clean and disinfect surfaces contacted by bodily fluids of a person who has displayed symptoms of illness.
- 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, etc.) can be used, if hand hygiene is practiced before and after use
- Staff will work with classroom configurations to provide seating arrangements that work for the health and safety as well as the social emotional well being of students; avoiding if possible directly facing one another.

Administration Measures

- School extra curricular activities, social gatherings and events are inline with the local, regional, Provincial, and Federal health recommendations and orders. At this time, School Gatherings and Events are to be held virtually or outside.
- In indoor spaces, people have enough room to complete activities without involuntary physical contacts. Room capacity limits are not exceeded.
- During unstructured time indoors, strategies are in place to ensure enough space is available to prevent involuntary physical contact.
- Staff only gatherings (staff meetings) will be inline with the local, regional Provincial and Federal health recommendations and orders at this time online.
- Bus transportation will require cleaning before and after use, hand washing before use, mask wearing for all students and adults, and open windows will be encouraged when appropriate. People are spread out in empty seats if available.
- Food services will follow operational and food safety practices.
- When car sharing, we will ask people to wear masks, keep in the same cars when possible and keep windows open when appropriate.
- When hiring a TOC, having a visitor or volunteer we will email our communicable disease plan ahead of time OR they will be given time to sit down and read it upon arrival.
- Staff will be required to attend a virtual staff meeting on Tuesday, January 4th to ensure that they understand the additional safety precautions and expectations on the class/room.

For more information please feel free to read the comprehensive expectations laid out by the [Addendum](#) Public Health Guidance for K - 12 schools dated December 29, 2021 as well as the [Public Health Guidance for K - 12 schools](#) dated October 1, 2021.