

Communicable disease prevention

A guide for employers

This guide is not meant for workplaces that are required to have an existing exposure control plan (ECP) related to communicable disease, such as health care employers. See [section 6.34](#) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation for more information about ECPs.

As COVID-19 vaccinations have become widely available to British Columbians, the overall risk of COVID-19 transmission and serious consequences has diminished. Despite this, the virus will still circulate like other communicable diseases.

This guide provides information for employers to develop a communicable disease plan. An effective plan includes ongoing measures to reduce the risk of communicable disease and additional measures for when there's an elevated risk of communicable disease.

Managing communicable disease at your workplace is part of an effective [occupational health and safety](#) program.

Communicable disease prevention

A *communicable disease* is an illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxic product that can be transmitted in a workplace from one person to another. Examples of communicable disease that may circulate in a workplace include COVID-19, norovirus, and seasonal influenza.

This guide describes a four-step process to help employers develop a communicable disease plan. This plan does not need to be written, posted, or approved by WorkSafeBC. Your plan may be supported by policies, signage, or other materials as appropriate to your workplace and the level of risk. Some employers may benefit from documenting their plan to assist in planning and communicating their communicable disease prevention measures, practices, and policies. A template is provided at the end of this guide for that purpose.

Step 1: Understand the risk

Preventing communicable disease involves taking ongoing measures to reduce the risk of communicable

disease transmission in your workplace. It also involves implementing additional measures when advised to do so by Public Health during periods of elevated risk.

The level of risk of certain communicable diseases, including COVID-19, may increase from time to time or on a seasonal basis. This may occur at a local or regional level, or within a certain workplace.

- ☐ Monitor and review communicable disease-related information issued by your regional medical health officer or the [provincial health officer](#) if it's related to your industry, region, or workplace. This includes orders, guidance, notices, and recommendations issued by a medical health officer or the provincial health officer.

Step 2: Implement measures, practices, and policies to reduce the risk

Ongoing measures — Maintain at all times

As an employer, you must implement and maintain the following measures at all times.

- ☐ Implement policies to support staff who have symptoms of a communicable disease (e.g., fever or chills, coughing, diarrhea) so they can avoid being at the workplace when sick.
- ☐ Provide hand-hygiene facilities with appropriate supplies (see [section 4.85](#) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation). Use policies and signage to remind workers to [wash their hands](#) regularly and to [cover coughs and sneezes](#).
- ☐ Maintain a clean environment through routine cleaning processes that are appropriate for your industry and work practices.
- ☐ Make sure building [ventilation](#) is adequate and ventilation systems are properly maintained and functioning as designed. For more

information, see [section 4.72](#) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

- ☐ Support employees in receiving [vaccinations for COVID-19](#) and other vaccine-preventable conditions.

Additional measures — Implement as advised by Public Health

During a period of elevated risk, the medical health officer or provincial health officer will provide information and guidance about the risk and how you can reduce it. The measures that you'll need to implement will depend on the type of disease and the methods of transmission.

- ☐ Follow all direction from medical health officers and your regional health authority.
- ☐ Follow all orders, guidance, recommendations, and notices issued by the [provincial health officer](#) that are relevant to your industry, region, or workplace.
- ☐ Depending on the guidance that public health officials provide, you may need to assess the workplace to identify areas, activities, and processes that may pose a risk to workers. You may also need to implement appropriate control measures to reduce the risk, following the direction of Public Health. WorkSafeBC has maintained key [COVID-19 protocols](#) that you can refer to. You can use these as appropriate and as advised by Public Health during periods of increased risk.

Step 3: Communicate measures, practices, and policies

Make sure everyone entering the workplace, including workers from other employers, receives information about your measures, practices, and policies for managing communicable disease. A template is provided at the end of this guide that employers may find useful for this purpose.

- ☐ Ensure all workers understand the measures in place at your workplace.
- ☐ Provide all your workers with information on policies for staying home when sick and working from home. The following resources are available for employers to support workers

working from home:

- [Working from home: A guide to keeping your workers healthy and safe](#)
- [Setting up, organizing, and working comfortably in your home workspace](#)

- ☐ Post signage in your workplace to support the measures you have in place.
- ☐ Make sure your supervisors are knowledgeable about your measures, practices, and policies, and incorporate these into supervision practices at the workplace.
- ☐ Provide information, signage, and materials to workers in a language they understand.
- ☐ Be mindful that some aspects of managing communicable disease in the workplace may raise privacy and confidentiality issues. Seek advice on these issues as necessary.

Step 4: Monitor your workplace and update your plan as necessary

Continuously evaluate and update your plan to reflect changing risk levels and work practices.

- ☐ [Joint health and safety committees](#) and worker representatives play an important role in identifying and resolving workplace health and safety issues. When identifying and resolving safety issues, involve joint health and safety committees or worker health and safety representatives (or, in smaller workplaces, other workers).
- ☐ Use workplace inspections and ongoing supervision in the workplace to ensure measures are functioning properly, followed, and maintained.
- ☐ Monitor the guidance, notices, orders, and recommendations from Public Health (as required in Step 1). Adjust your plan as necessary.
- ☐ Monitor your workplace and risk level.
- ☐ Change your measures, practices, and policies as necessary.
- ☐ Update your plan to reflect changes in your workplace, including work processes, staff, and premises.
- ☐ Make sure workers know how to raise health and safety concerns

Communicable disease prevention planning template

The following template may be useful for employers in documenting and communicating their communicable disease prevention measures, practices, and policies. This is an optional resource, and may be used or adapted as suited to the individual employer.

Step 1: Understand the risk

Preventing communicable disease involves taking ongoing measures to reduce the risk for communicable disease transmission in the workplace.

The employer is to ensure that basic steps are taken to reduce the risk to workers from communicable diseases. Communicable diseases are illnesses caused by an infectious agent or its toxins that occur through the direct or indirect transmission of an infectious agent or its products from an infected individual or another vector. For the purpose of this guideline, the communicable diseases of concern are those that circulate in the community from time to time and as a result may be introduced into a workplace, such as COVID-19, norovirus, and influenza.

The principal is responsible for regular monitoring and reviewing the Communicable Disease-related information that is provided by our regional medical health officer (Fraser Health or Vancouver Coastal) and the Provincial Health Officer. This includes all of the orders, guidelines, notices, and recommendations that are issued by them. In addition, we follow the guidelines that are provided by our CISVA Superintendent. This information is regularly communicated to staff to understand and minimize risk of communicable disease transmission in our school.

The Ministry of Health and BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) - <https://www.bccdc.ca/>
The JOH&S committee will support the principal in reviewing documents, policies, etc. and communicate the current and best practices to staff (through signage, memos, conversations etc.).
This document is available on the Staff Google Classroom and school website.

Step 2: Implement measures, practices, and policies to reduce the risk

Ongoing measures

Implement policies to support staff who have symptoms of communicable disease so they can avoid being in the workplace when sick.

Policies to support staff who have symptoms of a communicable disease are in place so they can avoid being at the workplace when sick. These include Policy 310, Employee Leaves of Absence, as well as the procedure/protocol outlines in the Parent Handbook and the Staff Handbook.

Staff are to notify the principal or vice principal, preferably before 2:00 p.m. one day before if they are unable to be at school due to illness. If a call or text is needed the morning of, then notification must be given by 6:30 a.m. If staff fall ill during the day they are to contact the principal or front office (preferably by phone) then leave the building immediately).

Staff, other adults entering the school, parents, caregivers, and students are aware that they should not come to school if they are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities. While we do not request daily health checks, people should be monitoring and regularly checking to ensure they are not experiencing symptoms of illness that would limit their ability to participate fully in regular activities before coming to school to prevent the spread of communicable diseases within the school settings.

Provide hand-hygiene facilities and appropriate supplies (see section 4.85 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation). Use policies and signage to remind workers to wash their hands and to cover coughs and sneezes.

The following resources may be of use to employers in communicating appropriate practices around the workplace:

- **Prevent the spread of communicable disease: Handwashing**
- **Prevent the spread of communicable disease: Cover coughs and sneezes**

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. Teachers are to facilitate regular opportunities for students and staff to wash their hands. See posters throughout the school for instructions on how to perform hand hygiene. Hands are to be washed diligently throughout the day before and after handling food, eating, washrooms, first aid etc. Entry into the classrooms is through the cloak rooms so hands should be washed before eating the classroom.

Teachers can teach students and reinforce good respiratory etiquette practices among students. The following documents can be reviewed: "Prevent the spread of communicable disease" and "Prevent the spread of Communicable Disease: Cover Coughs and Sneezes".

Teachers are to review the following with students:

- coughing or sneezing into their elbow or a tissue.
- throwing away tissues and immediately performing hand hygiene.
- teaching students to refrain from touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- teaching students to refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unwashed utensils etc.

Some staff, students, parents may choose to wear a non-medical mask or face covering throughout the day or for certain activities. These are also provided should people choose to wear one.

Maintain a clean environment through routine cleaning processes that are appropriate for your industry and work practices.

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 or other communicable diseases from contaminated objects and surfaces.

High traffic areas and high-contact surfaces such as door and cabinet handles, desks, keyboards, light switches, and communication devices will be sanitized by the staff and or students. Staff will keep track and clean any communal items in the classroom that will require cleaning.

Students and staff will wipe their desks before and or after eating and dismissal.

High touch surfaces throughout the school (washroom doors, sinks, railings etc.) will be sanitized throughout the day or as needed.

Each class is equipped with disinfectant spray bottles, paper towels, etc. and must be stored away from students reach.

Spray disinfectant on the surface, wait for at least 30 seconds to 2 minutes before wiping. Gloves may be worn while using disinfectant sprays.

The school is cleaned daily by a janitorial company.

Make sure building ventilation is adequate and ventilation systems are properly maintained and functioning as designed. For more information, see section 4.72 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

For employers without ventilation, or without direct control of their building's ventilation system, they may take other measures to improve air circulation, including opening windows.

Learn more here:

[Prevent the spread of communicable disease: Ventilation and air circulation.](#)

Staff will refer to the document "Prevent the spread of communicable disease: Ventilation and Air Circulation".

Administration, JOH&S committee and Maintenance will do regular walk-through to ensure standards are being met (windows and doors open, fans used appropriately, air filtration systems on etc.) and report regularly to administration or the JOH&S Committee should there be any concerns.

Staff and students are advised to bring additional sweaters/coats for use in the classrooms when windows are open during the colder seasons.

Additional measures

During a period of elevated risk, a medical health officer or the provincial health officer will provide information and guidance about the risk and how you can reduce it. The measures that you'll need to implement will depend on the type of disease and the methods of transmission.

When a medical or provincial health officer provides guidance, new information about a risk or how to reduce it, our health and safety team will be contacted, assemble and meet with admin/health officials to discuss risks and establish plans and steps for response and implementation.

Depending on the severity of the risk, a formal meeting with the stakeholder groups may be needed. Consultation with the Superintendent's Office will occur as needed.

If needed, we will create a report out strategy for additional measures. Report out to all stakeholders: PEC, staff, parents, students, parish (if appropriate). Using REMIND to share information to parents/guardians.

Reminders are sent home to families in regards to student eligibility for vaccination.

Additional Prevention Measures:

Seating and space arrangements - maximize space between people, and avoid face-to-face seating arrangements. Stagger arrival and dismissal and recess if needed.

Limit whole school gatherings.

Limit visitor access inside the school.

Step 3: Communicate measures, practices, and policies

Make sure everyone entering the workplace, including workers from other employers, receives information about your measures, practices, and policies for managing communicable disease.

To ensure that everyone entering our school received information about our measures, practices and policies we have instituted the following:

- Provide all employees with information on Policy 310 (Employee Leave of Absence) and local school policies, re: staying home when sick and working from home. These are available on the CISVA website and SPEV staff handbook.
- Posting signage on all exterior entry doors to support the measures we have in place.
- Regularly update staff with policies, practices, changes, etc. in staff meetings, and or the weekly communication sheet or staff group messaging service.
- Regularly update PEC, parents, students, etc. in meetings, bulletins, REMIND communications, newsletters and websites.
- Regularly remind students on current best practices.

Step 4: Monitor your workplace and update your plan as necessary

Continually evaluate and update your plan to reflect changing risk levels and work practices.

Administration and JOH&S committee to provide ongoing evaluation of measures, practices and policies.

A JOH&S committee member will report any Health and Safety discussions and reports at regular full staff meetings, PEC meetings, weekly staff communication page, etc.

Staff who have concerns may bring these up to administration or to the JOH&S committee.

Document Updated: September 2025

Prevent the spread of communicable disease

Ventilation and air circulation

Public health experts advise that moving activities outdoors wherever possible can minimize the spread of communicable disease. For indoor activities, you can improve indoor air quality by supplying outdoor air, which will help remove and dilute contaminants that naturally accumulate in indoor settings, especially in well-sealed buildings.

Can communicable disease spread through ventilation systems?

At this time, there is no evidence that a building's ventilation system, in good operating condition, contributes to the spread of communicable disease.

What can I do to make sure my ventilation system is operating properly?

Employers must ensure that heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are designed, operated, and maintained as per standards and specifications for ongoing comfort of workers (Part 4 of the OHS Regulation).

Make sure preventive maintenance is conducted (for example, regular filter changes and inspection of critical components).

Make sure the system is properly balanced. Verify that the system meets its design conditions for air flow, temperature, pressure drop noise, and vibration.

How can I ensure the healthiest indoor air quality in my workplace?

Reduce air recirculation and increase the outdoor air intake as much as possible while maintaining comfortable indoor temperature and humidity. Make sure outdoor air dampers are operating properly.

Do not turn off the ventilation system while the building is occupied. After working hours or on weekends, consider turning the system down, rather than turning it off, if you wish to save power.

What can I do to improve ventilation if I don't have an HVAC system for my workplace?

If feasible, open windows and doors to promote air circulation.

When advised by Public Health, post occupancy limits to allow for adequate physical distancing in every room. Don't allow overcrowding.

Air cleaning devices that have a HEPA filter will reduce particles in the air if appropriately sized for the space.

If you're using portable fans, heaters, or air conditioning units, make sure they're set up to avoid blowing air directly from one person's breathing zone to other occupants of a room. Avoid horizontal cross breezes.

What about ventilation in vehicles?

Workers using company vehicles should turn the vents or air conditioning controls to allow outdoor air to flow in. Do not set the vents to recirculate.

Leave windows partially open to allow as much outdoor air as possible into the vehicle.

Is there anything special I have to do to my ventilation system after a building has been unoccupied?

If the building has been unoccupied for a period of time, make sure your system has a thorough inspection before it's put back into operation. If your building system includes a cooling tower, you must assess the risk of *Legionella* contamination and disinfect your system as required.

HVAC maintenance workers are required to follow their usual safe work procedures, including the use of personal protective equipment normally worn to conduct maintenance. No special cleaning or disinfecting of the system is necessary when usual safe work procedures are followed.

Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

September 13, 2023

Introduction

This document provides guidance for educators, administrators, and support staff (hereafter referred to as staff) at public, independent, and First Nations Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) schools of what communicable disease prevention measures should be implemented to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, including COVID-19 and influenza.

The Ministry of Health and BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) fully respect the authority of individual First Nations to make decisions about the operation of First Nations schools in the best interests of their students, schools, and communities. This includes their authority to decide if and how to use this guidance to inform planning. The Ministry of Education and Child Care works with Indigenous rights holders and K-12 education and health partners to build on public health guidance to establish the [Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 School Settings](#). These Ministry of Education and Child Care guidelines build on public health guidance to provide operational considerations and implementation guidance for schools and school districts. BCCDC is the primary source of information about communicable diseases in B.C. Resources on the [BCCDC website](#) can be used to support learning and to respond to questions from school communities.

Recommendations for Individuals

Vaccines

Vaccines are important tools to protect against serious outcomes of many communicable diseases, such as COVID-19 and influenza. Students and staff are encouraged to ensure they are up to date on [all recommended vaccines for communicable diseases](#).

Schools are encouraged to share evidence-based information and promote opportunities to be vaccinated in partnership with public health and the local medical health officer. For

administrators and staff, more information on vaccination and communicable disease prevention in the workplace is available on the [Work Safe B.C. website](#). Evidence-based immunization information and tools for B.C. residents are available from [BCCDC](#) and [ImmunizeBC](#) websites.

Health Awareness

School administrators should ensure that staff, other adults entering the school, parents, caregivers, and students are aware that they 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 not attending school if sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities.

A health check means a person regularly checking to ensure they (or their child) are not experiencing symptoms of illness that would limit their ability to participate fully in regular activities before coming to school to prevent spread of communicable diseases within the school settings. Schools do not need to monitor students or staff for symptoms of illness.

What To Do When Sick

Staff, students, or other persons in the school setting who are exhibiting symptoms of illness, such as respiratory illness, should stay home until they are well enough to participate in regular activities or otherwise advised by a healthcare provider. Those experiencing certain illnesses, such as gastrointestinal illness caused by norovirus, may be advised to stay home for longer. Staff, children, or other persons can attend school if their symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies) or symptoms have improved, and they feel well enough to return to regular activities or otherwise advised by a healthcare provider. If you are unsure or concerned about your symptoms, connect with your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

If a staff member, student, or other person develops symptoms of illness at school and is unable to participate in regular activities, they should be supported to go home until their symptoms have improved or otherwise advised by a healthcare provider. Appropriate infection control

precautions should be taken while the person is preparing to leave the school premises, including use of appropriate hand hygiene and cleaning/disinfection of surfaces soiled with bodily fluids. They may use a mask if they are experiencing respiratory symptoms.

Schools should not require a health care provider note (i.e. a doctor's note) to confirm the health status of any individual, beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual practice.

Hand hygiene

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. To learn about how to perform hand hygiene, please refer to the [How to clean your hands poster](#).

Respiratory Etiquette

Parents and staff can teach and reinforce good respiratory etiquette practices among students, including:

- Cough or sneeze into their elbow 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, cigarettes, or vaping devices.

Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings

The decision to wear a mask is a personal one, based on individual preference. Some students and staff may choose to wear a non-medical mask or face covering throughout the day or for certain activities. The choice of staff and students to choose whether they practice additional personal prevention measures should be respected. Information on non-medical masks is available from [BCCDC](#).

PPE When Providing Student Services

Staff and those providing services to children with medical complexity, immune suppression, receiving direct or delegated care, or with disabilities and diverse abilities who are in close proximity to a child should follow routine infection control practices and care plans for the child, if applicable.

Recommendations for School Settings

Ventilation and Air Exchange

Continue to ensure all mechanical heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are designed, operated, and maintained as per standards and specifications for ongoing comfort of workers ([Part 4 of OHS Regulation](#)), and that they are working properly. Windows may be opened when the weather permits if it does not impact the functioning of ventilation systems.

Cleaning and Disinfection

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.

Food Safety

Schools that provide food services regulated under the [Food Premises Regulation](#) should adhere to the required measures (e.g. a FOODSAFE trained staff member, a food safety plan, etc.). For special events or sites requiring food permits, please consult your local health authority environmental health officer.

Staff, students, or other persons in the school setting should also follow routine food safety practices, including diligent hand hygiene. More information may be found on the [BCCDC Food Safety webpage](#).

Gatherings & Events

School extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools), regardless of location, can occur in line with the guidance in this document.

Space Arrangement

In learning environments, schools can use classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches.

Transportation

For school buses, schools should implement the prevention measures included in this guidance document, where applicable.

Visitors and Community Use of Schools

Schools can follow normal practices for welcoming visitors and the community use of schools.

Communicable Disease Management

Most communicable diseases experienced by students and staff within school settings can be managed by the individual/family and through routine preventive measures, such as staying home from school until well enough to participate in regular activities. Information resources are available to support management of routine communicable diseases, including [HealthLinkBC](#), the [BCCDC Guide to Common Childhood Diseases](#), the [Sneezes and Diseases](#) website, and other school health resources hosted on health authority webpages ([Vancouver Coastal Health](#); [Fraser Health](#); [Interior Health](#); [Island Health](#); [Northern Health](#)).

Public health works closely with education partners to support the health and wellbeing of students and staff in school settings. Public health may become directly involved if certain reportable diseases, such as measles, are identified where there are effective interventions available to prevent further spread and protect against severe disease. Additional time-limited

public health measures may also be implemented at the discretion of the Medical Health Officer or Provincial Health Officer in response to broader risk of communicable disease transmission in the community. School or district administrators can contact public health if they have concerns about communicable disease transmission within the school setting and require additional support.

Measles Guidance for K-12 Schools

Date: August 21, 2025

This document supplements the [Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) and provides additional guidance for educators, administrators, and support staff (hereafter referred to as staff) at public, independent, and First Nations Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) schools related to preventing the spread of measles within the school setting. While BC is experiencing measles cases, the absolute risk of measles occurring in any given school is low. As such, this guidance should be used in the context of real or perceived concern of measles in the school setting.

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness that can spread easily among individuals who are not immune. Immunization remains the most effective way to prevent measles and protect school communities. Individuals are most likely to develop measles if they are not immune (e.g., not immunized or no previous infection) and are exposed to someone with measles, while those who are immune are at extremely low risk of getting measles.

Measles symptoms typically appear **10 days (range of 7–21 days) after exposure** and may include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash typically starting on the face and neck, spreading to the chest, arms, and legs. This rash typically starts four days after initial flu-like symptoms
- Small white spots inside the mouth (Koplik's spots)
- Diarrhea and abdominal pain

Many of these symptoms are non-specific and can overlap with other illnesses. Measles can lead to serious complications such as pneumonia, hepatitis (liver inflammation), encephalitis (swelling of the brain), subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (a neurologic disorder that occurs many years after infection), immune suppression for many years, and potentially death.

Immunization

The best way to protect students and staff is for everyone to be fully immunized with measles-containing vaccine – either in the form of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) or Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella (MMRV) vaccine. In BC, measles-containing vaccine is routinely offered:

- At 12 months of age in the form of MMR vaccine; and
- Between 4-6 years of age in the form of MMRV vaccine

One dose of measles-containing vaccine is around 85-95% protective, while the effectiveness of 2 doses approaches 100%.

People are considered fully immune to measles if they have any of:

- Had 2 doses of a measles-containing vaccine after 12 months of age, given at least 4 weeks apart
- Were born before 1970 (immune due to presumed infection at a time when measles was circulating widely), or
- Have laboratory evidence of immunity or previous infection (antibody levels or presence of the virus)

Immunization reporting

Encourage parents/caregivers to submit their child's immunization records prior to school entry. The [Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation](#) (VSRR) requires all school-aged children enrolled in public, independent, and home schools to provide up-to-date immunization records, so they are all stored in one place. The VSRR does not apply to students attending First Nations' schools or to children in Strong Start early learning programs for children aged 0-5.

[People can find out how to check their immunization records at HealthLink BC's immunization records webpage](#) including how to check records on [Health Gateway](#) and how to [upload their immunization records](#) to the immunization registry. If immunization records are not available, the best approach is to get immunized. Getting additional measles-containing vaccines is completely safe and a blood test (serology) to confirm immunity is not recommended.

What to do if sick

Students or staff with symptoms of measles should stay home and seek medical advice. If measles is suspected or confirmed:

- Stay home for **4 days after rash onset**, or **10 days from symptom onset** if no rash is present, unless otherwise advised by public health.

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- Contact a **health care provider or call 8-1-1** for additional guidance.
 - Seek medical care if necessary (e.g., someone is experiencing trouble breathing). If seeking medical care, please notify emergency transport (e.g., an ambulance) and/or the health care facility in advance of your possible concern for measles so they can take appropriate precautions to protect others. Further information on measles in children and [when to seek urgent medical care is available here](#).

On-site management of symptomatic students/staff

If a student, staff member, or other person develops symptoms of measles while at school, they should be supported to go home and connect with their health care provider or call 8-1-1.

- **Staff** with measles symptoms should go home as soon as possible.
- For a **student** with measles symptoms, contact their parents/ caregivers to pick them up as soon as possible. Offer the student a face mask that covers the mouth and nose and if appropriate (e.g., developmentally appropriate and safe for the child) move the student to a **separate room**.
 - Ensure the room remains **vacant for at least 2 hours** after the student leaves as measles can stay in the environment for this amount of time.
- Only **staff members immune to measles** should interact with the symptomatic student while they are awaiting pick-up.

Managing measles exposures in the school setting

If there is a confirmed case of measles at your school, public health will connect with school administration to provide further guidance on communications, who might need to stay home from school, and any post-exposure management that may be recommended. Schools should maintain up-to-date contact information for students and staff and have a mechanism of communicating in the event of a measles case. **Individuals exposed to measles without proof of immunity may be asked to stay home from school for up to 21 days from the exposure.**

School or district administrators can also contact public health if they have concerns about potential exposures to measles within their school community, such as suspected cases among students or staff, or if they require additional support. More information describing cases of measles in BC can be found on the [BCCDC Website](#), including further information on what to do if someone is [exposed to measles in a public setting](#).

For more information

- Visit HealthLink BC for [additional information about measles](#) or call HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1. Specific information on [measles in children](#) is available on the ChildHealthBC site.
- General guidance on what to do if someone becomes ill while at school and cleaning and disinfection can be found on the [Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 schools](#).
- Guidance on [hand hygiene is available here](#).
- Guidance on [how to wear a mask is available here](#).
- Additional [resources on measles](#) are available from the First Nations Health Authority
- If you suspect someone may have measles at your school, you can call public health for further information and guidance.
 - **Fraser Health:** 604-507-5484
 - **Interior Health:** Contact your closest [Public Health Unit or local Health Centre](#)
 - **Island Health:**
 - South Island: 1-866-665-6626
 - Central Island: 1-866-770-7798
 - North Island: 1-877-887-8835
 - After Hours: 1-800-204-6166
 - **Northern Health:** 1-855-755-3555
 - **Vancouver Coastal Health:**
 - Business hours: 1-855-675-3900
 - After business hours: 604-527-4893