



Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

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1.0 Introduction

The following sections contain guidance and considerations related to key areas of school operations based primarily on the latest available health and safety advice included in the [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#), [WorkSafeBC's Protocols for K-12 Education](#) and the [BC Ministry of Education's Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#). Each section also contains our school's plan for minimizing the risk of communicable diseases, including COVID-19 transmission as part of our reopening.

Administration and school staff responsible for the development and promotion of the plan will continue to monitor provincial guidance as the year progresses, making updates to our plan consistent with the latest advice. The plan will be shared and discussed with school personnel and any other relevant staff to ensure our guidelines and standards are applied.

This plan was developed with input from the following bodies:

- Bella Bella Community School Board
- Bella Bella Community School Administration
- Heiltsuk Emergency Services Centre

For questions or feedback relating to this plan, please contact:

Anita Hall, Principal

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1.1 Guiding Principles

Our school is operating under the guidelines established by the Provincial Health Officer, the BC Centre for Disease Control and WorkSafeBC to ensure the safety of students and education professionals. These guidelines include controlling access to buildings, maintaining physical distancing amongst staff, implementing distancing strategies for students who are in school, and maintaining good hygiene practices. Our guiding principles are as follows:

- Maintaining a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees;
- Providing the services needed to support children of essential workers;
- Supporting vulnerable students who may need special assistance; and
- Providing continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

1.2 Purpose of this Plan

The purpose of this Communicable Disease Prevention Plan includes:

- Ensuring staff members are aware of protocols and procedures that allow them to safely care for students, colleagues and themselves;
- Informing all staff members on best practices to reduce the risk of infections through the transmission of communicable diseases, including COVID-19; and
- Ensuring all staff members are aware of their responsibility to ensure the health and safety of themselves, other staff and students.

2.0 Space Arrangement, Classrooms and Traffic Flow

In classrooms, student seating will be spread out as much as possible within the available space. Unnecessary furnishings and equipment will be removed from classrooms to allow more space to spread students out.

2.1 Personal Items & School Supplies

- Staff and students are encouraged to not share items that come in contact with the mouth (food, drinks, utensils, etc.)
- Students can continue to use their lockers. Schools should implement strategies to manage the flow of students around lockers to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.
- Staff and students will be encouraged to only bring personal items that are necessary (e.g. backpacks, clothing, school supplies, water bottles) and to not share personal items with others.
- Personal items, including school supplies, will be labelled with student names.

2.2 Music and Physical Education Programs

Students can participate in music and physical education programs, with additional safety measures in place.

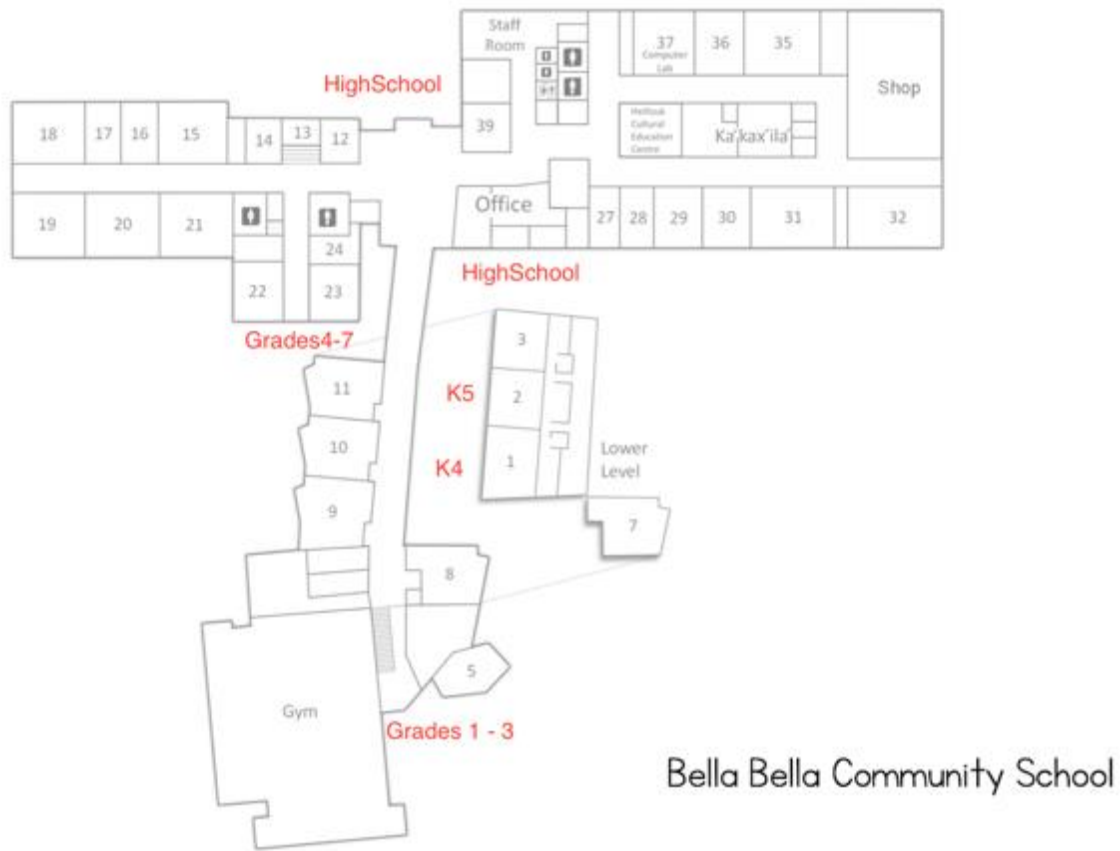
- Masks aren't required when doing activities that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, like playing a wind instrument or participating in high-intensity physical activity
- Students must continue to wear masks while singing
- Shared equipment will be cleaned and disinfected and students are encouraged to wash their hands before and after use
- Students will be asked not to share equipment that touches the mouth, like an instrument mouthpiece or mouthguard, unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses

2.3 Entering the School Building

All people will enter the school as follows:

- o K4 – outside classroom door
- o K5 – outside classroom door
- o Grade 1 - 3 – EagleHead
- o Grade 4 - 7 – Heiltsuk Language Stairs beside the Little toy
- o High school and staff – Double Red Doors at top of concrete stairs near covered area & backdoor off Sasum Drive (west side of school)
- Classes will gather outside while waiting to enter the school at designated locations.
- Students will be regularly reminded to keep their hands to themselves.

- Signage will be posted in halls and pick/up drop/off areas to remind staff and students to avoid crowding.



2.4 Dropping off Students in Grades K4-3

- Parents may drop off students in the drop off zone in front of the main entrance (EagleHead) but they are not to enter the school.
- Parents of K4 and K5 students may drop off students by parking and walking their child(ren) to the outside entrance to their classroom, on the south side of the school building.

2.5 Sign in for all Visitors in main office

- Parents, caregivers, and visitors will be asked to phone 250-957-2391 with questions or to request an appointment.
- Access to the school by non-board employees, including parents, is by appointment only. Please contact Karen or Jean at 250-957-2391.

2.6 Recess, Lunch & Break Times

- Students will remain in their divisional groupings (K4-K5, Grades 1-3, and Grades 4-7) during recess and break times.

- Students can socialize with a friend in a different learning group if they follow these rules.

2.7 Playgrounds

Playgrounds are a safe environment. There is no evidence of COVID-19 transmission in playgrounds. The following measures should be taken when using playgrounds:

- Ensure appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play
- Attempt to minimize direct contact between students
- Sand and water can be used for play if children wash their hands before and after play. COVID-19 does not survive well on surfaces, other than hard surfaces. There is no evidence showing that the virus survives on sand, in water or on playdough.

2.7 Controlling Traffic Flow:

- Use floor markings and posters to show traffic flow throughout the school.
- Traffic flow begins and ends in the school by using our designated entrances and exits
- Our school will maintain the same number of exits and ensure they adhere to the fire code.

2.8 Attendance Requirements

In-Class Instruction

In-class instruction provides students with peer engagement, supports social and emotional development and decreases feelings of isolation. School also provides many students access to programs and services they can't get at home and is integral to their overall health.

We are aware of and respect the differing comfort levels that families have regarding students attending. Staff, students and parents are encouraged to find the amount of in-class instruction that feels safest; close collaboration and regular communication between students, parents and staff will be key.

In the event of the community directive to lockdown due to a communicable disease, including COVID 19, Grades K4-Grade 3 will be using the online platform Seesaw. Parents will have access to the site to view assignments and a communication tool.

Courses in Grades 4-12 will be required to use Google Classroom to organize learning; this will allow regular in-class and at home learning and will minimize disruptions if we are required to move to a different stage.

Alternative Options

Like every September, parents have options for their child's education.

Before selecting an alternative to in-class instruction, parents should talk to their school administration team as soon as possible about their options.

2.9 Reinforce Personal Prevention Practices

BBCS school staff 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 and Hailzaqv Nation's recommendations.
- Demonstrate and model how to practice personal prevention measures at school (e.g., wearing a mask, hand hygiene, etc.).
- Regularly, sharing trusted information from the BC Centre for Disease Control.

210 Supportive School Environments

BBCS will continue to support personal prevention practices (including mask use) through positive and inclusive approaches, aligned with existing professional practices to address non-compliant behaviour. Approaches will not exclude students from participating in school or potentially result in stigma, but rather provide information/education and rationale for preventative practices.

BBCS will continue to utilize a trauma-informed lens when planning school activities (e.g., gatherings and events), including considerations around respecting others personal space.

3.0 Student Transportation

Students and parents will be encouraged to consider alternate transportation to school (biking, walking, driving) when it is reasonable and safe to do so.

For travel by bus, parents and guardians will be asked to ensure that their children will abide by the following guidelines:

- Perform hand hygiene before they leave home to take the bus, when they leave school prior to taking the bus, and when they get home.
- All staff, other adults and K-12 students, with exceptions outlined by BCCDC, will wear a non-medical mask that is put on before loading, worn on the bus, and taken off after offloading. Staff and students may wear a face shield in addition but must wear a mask under the face shield.
- Bus drivers will practice hand hygiene before and after trips and practice respiratory etiquette as needed. They can remove their mask while driving.
- Windows on the bus will be open at all times, weather permitting.
- Students will be spread out on the bus when possible and bus line up areas will be set up to prevent crowding.
- The bus's frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected daily, according to BCCDC guidelines.
- Students will not take the bus to school if they are sick.

- The expectations that apply to school buses regarding mask wearing, hand hygiene, spreading out when possible, and not travelling to school while sick apply to all school transportation, including water taxi.

4.0 Health & Safety Measures

4.1 COVID 19 - Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) issues public health guidance for schools and school districts that outlines the infection prevention and exposure control measures recommended to maintain low risk and healthy environments for students, families and staff.

4.2 Provincial K-12 Communicable Disease Guidelines

The Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 were developed by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with education partners and outline key health and safety requirements for B.C. schools. The Guidelines build on the BCCDC public health guidance for K-12 and address a broader range of content and expectations for schools and school districts. In case of any discrepancy between these two guidance documents, boards of education and independent school authorities should follow the provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines.

Medical Health Officers can issue local public health orders and recommendations regarding additional health and safety measures in K-12 schools beyond the provincial guidelines based on their authority under provincial legislation.

4.3 WorkSafeBC Guidelines

Further to the Provincial Health Officer's statement on June 17, 2021, employers are no longer required to maintain a COVID-19 Safety Plan but must instead transition to communicable disease prevention. Communicable disease prevention focuses on reducing the risk of workplace transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, and includes both ongoing measures (e.g. hand hygiene, cleaning) and additional measures to be implemented as advised by Public Health.

WorkSafeBC's Communicable disease prevention: A guide for employers outlines a four-step process to reduce the risk of communicable disease transmission in the workplace. Steps include understanding the level of risk, implementing appropriate measures, communicating policies and protocols, and updating measures and safeguards as required.

More information and resources are available on the [WorkSafeBC website](#).

4.4 Isolations Requirements:

In consultations with the school administration, effective August 23, 2021, in addition to the school continuing to adhere to the [BBCS Communicable Disease Prevention Plan](#) and public health requirements and guidelines, the following new self-isolation measures are being implemented for students who leave Bella Bella at any time during the school year:

1. Students who are ineligible to be vaccinated (ie. currently any students under age 12) must self-isolate for a period of two (2) weeks before they can return to school, if they have parents or siblings who are not fully vaccinated and leave Bella Bella during the school year. Exceptions to this requirement may apply in special circumstances or where an unvaccinated family member is required to leave Bella Bella for medical reasons. In such instances, please contact School administration to discuss the situation.
2. Students who are ineligible to be vaccinated, but whose eligible siblings and parents are fully vaccinated, will not be required to self-isolate for any period of time prior to returning to school if either they or their siblings or parents leave and return to Bella Bella during the school year.
3. Students who are eligible to be vaccinated, but have not received any COVID-19 vaccinations are required to self-isolate for two (2) weeks following their return to Bella Bella, before they can return to school.
4. Students who are eligible to be vaccinated, but have only received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at the time, will be required to self-isolate for one (1) week following their return to Bella Bella, before they can return to school.
5. Students who are fully vaccinated as of September 7, 2021 will not be required to self-isolate upon their return to Bella Bella before they can return to school.

During any period of self-isolation, students will continue to have access to the school's online learning tools. Parents are encouraged to contact the school as soon as possible to make arrangements for any online learning requirements.

The School Board will accommodate any individuals who are unable to receive the vaccine on the basis of protected human rights grounds (such as for medical reasons or on the basis of religious beliefs). Individuals who are unsure whether they are able to take the vaccine because of a medical condition should contact their health care provider. If your child may require accommodation due to a protected human rights ground, please contact school administration.

Special safety measures will keep our school safe and impede the spread communicable diseases, including COVID-19. These extra layers of protective measures work well in schools because they're controlled environments that have:

- Consistent groups of people
- Robust illness policies for students and staff
- Effective personal hygiene practices like hand washing

4.2 Hand Hygiene

The school will post signage to communicate hand hygiene measures and respiratory etiquette to students and staff. [Hand cleaning facilities are available and accessible throughout the school and are well maintained.](#)

When Students Should Perform Hand Hygiene:	When Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When they arrive at school. - Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch). - Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student’s desk or locker). - Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes (e.g. the gym, music room, science lab, etc.). - After using the toilet. - After sneezing or coughing into hands. - Whenever hands are visibly dirty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When they arrive at school. - Before and after any breaks (e.g. recess, lunch). - Before and after eating and drinking. - Before and after handling food or assisting students with eating. - Before and after giving medication to a student or self. - After using the toilet. - After contact with body fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood). - After cleaning tasks. - After removing gloves. - After handling garbage.

4.3 Personal Protective Equipment (Masks)

The PHO Order – Face Coverings requires all students, staff, and visitors to wear a mask indoors at school. [Everyone who can \(i.e., does not have a mask exemption\) must wear a mask.](#) All K4 to 12 students, staff and visitors are required to wear [3-layer disposable masks](#) in all indoor areas, including:

- At desks
- On school buses

It's important for students in every grade to wear masks indoors. Getting vaccinated is the best way adults can protect students who are not vaccinated yet.

Exceptions to the mask policy include:

- A person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons
- 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. For example:
 - o Playing a wind instrument
 - o Engaging in high-intensity physical activity
 - o If a person is eating or drinking
 - o If a person is behind a barrier
- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (for example, a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important

Students will be taught about how to use masks and the expectation that they will treat people wearing masks with respect. BBCS will have non-medical masks and face shields available for staff. Note that if a face shield is worn, a mask is still required.

Reminders communicated to students (and their parents/caregivers) and staff that includes:

- Wearing masks at school is required under a public health order.
- Proper fit is a key factor in mask effectiveness. Masks worn at school should fit well.
- Masks are most effective when everyone who can is wearing one.
- Those with mask exemptions continue to follow any strategies identified to reinforce and enhance other safety measures.
- Those not able to wear a mask all day continue to be encouraged to wear one as much as they're able to.

Administrators and staff use positive and inclusive approaches, aligned with existing professional practices to address non-compliant behaviour for those able to wear masks. For those with mask exemptions, administrators and staff support other strategies identified to reinforce and enhance other safety measures (as outlined in the Planning Resource: Mask Exemptions – Appendix D).

For those with mask exemptions, alternative strategies identified are adjusted if needed, based on the additional prevention measures.

4.4 Physical Distancing:

Strict physical distancing is no longer required. BBCS will continue to create space between people, including:

- Managing flow of people in common areas, including hallways and around lockers, to minimize crowding and allow people to pass through easily
- Preventing crowding at pick-up and drop-off times
- Reminding students and staff about respecting others' personal space, using visual supports, signage, prompts and video modelling as necessary
- Using available space to spread people out where possible
- Taking students outside as much as possible
- Stagger recess/snack, lunch and class transition times to provide a greater amount of space for everyone.

Space arrangements need to ensure the maximum space between people. Including, different common space, classroom, and learning environment configurations (e.g., different desk and table formations). Limit and, whenever possible, avoid face-to-face seating arrangements.

4.5 Staff-Specific Considerations

- Staff will wear masks while indoors and on buses.
- Establish and post occupancy limits and physical distancing guidelines for shared spaces such as the staffroom and conference rooms.
- Remove chairs or tables to ensure occupancy limits are not exceeded and provide additional areas for staff to have their breaks, including areas outdoors.
- Establish office occupancy limit to prevent crowding when entering and leaving the workplace.
- Ensure that workers are knowledgeable regarding the controls required to minimize their risk of exposure to COVID-19.
- Report any unsafe conditions or acts.
- Staff-only gatherings (e.g., staff meetings, in-service and professional development activities) will be virtually.
- Itinerant Staff, Temporary Staff, Teachers On-Call and other visitors must become familiar with the communicable disease plan (this document) and sign in daily to confirm they have completed the daily self-check.

4.6 Communication, Training, and Orientation

- The school will send a regular email or communications to families/parents/caregivers. It will include updates about the school's COVID-19 response and procedures, reminders about daily health checks and signs/symptoms of COVID-19, mental health resources, and responses to common questions/concerns.
- Administration will communicate monthly with the school board
- COVID-19 information and notices will be posted to a designated school bulletin board.
- Signage will be posted at the school entrances, including notices to adults entering the school about their responsibility to assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease prior to entering.
- A start of the year email update and meeting will be held with staff to review workplace practices relating to COVID-19 and answer questions.
- Regular check-in meetings with staff will be held to share current information and review any concerns.
- The school will provide instruction to staff on the following:
 - o The risk of exposure to COVID-19 and the signs and symptoms of the disease.
 - o Safe work procedures or instruction to be followed, including hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette.
 - o How to report an exposure to or symptoms of COVID-19.

- Changes made to policies, practices, and procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- BBCS will keep a record of the instruction and training provided to workers regarding COVID-19, as well as reports of exposure and first aid records. COVID-19 related meetings will be documented and shared with the superintendent.
- The school will practice regular emergency procedures, including school fire evacuation drills, lockdown drills, etc.

5.0 Environmental Standards

5.1 Cleaning and Disinfection

General cleaning of schools, cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces will be conducted at least once in every 24-hour period and when visibly dirty. Cleaning and disinfection procedures in the school will include:

- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces at least once per day and when visibly dirty.
- Frequently touched surfaces include doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks, chairs used by multiple students, water fountains, toys, coffee makers, water refill stations, keyboards, tablets, and photocopiers.
- Cleaning surfaces touched by fewer people (e.g., desks used by a few students, lockers, manipulatives) at least once per day.
- Using common, commercially available detergents and disinfectant products and closely following the instructions on the label.
- Limiting frequently touched items that are not easily cleaned.
- Emptying garbage containers daily.
- Wearing disposable gloves when cleaning blood or body fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine). Washing hands before wearing and after removing gloves.
- Incorporating end-of-shift wipe downs for all shared spaces.
- Cleaning and disinfecting cots and mattresses prior to use and after they are used or soiled. Use single use only pillowcases and blankets and dispose of them immediately after single use. Where pillowcases and blankets are not single use, launder between each student.
- **Clean and disinfect any surfaces a person's body fluids have contacted after they have displayed symptoms of illness.**
- Providing adequate instruction, training, and supplies to custodians.
- BBCS is committed to having two cleaning shifts, during the day and in the evening.

5.2 Ventilation and Air Circulation

Moving activities outdoors when possible and consider moving classrooms outside when space and weather permit;

- Increasing air exchanges by adjusting the HVAC system; and
- Managing air distribution through building automation control systems.

The regular maintenance of the HVAC systems for proper operation and ensure that:

- Schools with recycled/recirculated air systems upgrade their current filters to a minimum MERV 13 filter or higher if possible; and
- Schools with fresh air intake systems increase their average air exchanges as detailed on the ASHRAE website and the Rocky Point Engineering Ltd website.

5.3 Ventilation and Air Exchange

- Classroom windows will be open when weather permits, if it doesn't impact the functioning of air conditioning systems.
- When fans or air conditioners are used, they will be positioned to avoid blowing air directly from one person's breathing zone to another's.

6.0 COVID 19 & Daily Health Checks

6.1 Stay Home When Sick

Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. **If a child has any symptoms, they must not go to school.**

Staff and other adults must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the school. **If staff or any adult has any symptoms, they must not enter the school.**

The BCCDC guidelines for schools are firm. If a student, staff member or any other adult has any symptoms of a cold, influenza, COVID-19, or any other infectious respiratory disease, **they must not enter the school, even if symptoms are mild.** Students (including children of essential service workers), staff members and any other adults must stay home and self-isolate if they have:

- Symptoms of COVID-19;
- Travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days; or
- Been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak.

6.2 Daily Health Screening

Parents/guardians are required to use the [provincial daily health check](#) to complete the daily health screen (See appendix C)

The K to 12 Health Check website and app is an easy way to decide if your child should attend school based on their symptoms. It includes current health guidelines and offers an age-appropriate user experience for K to 12 students.

The image shows a 'DAILY HEALTH CHECK' form with several sections. The first section asks if the user has symptoms like fever, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, or loss of appetite. The second section asks if they have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 symptoms. The third section asks if they have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days. The fourth section asks if they have been notified by public health. The form includes instructions on how to use it and a note about the BC Self-Assessment Tool app.

BBCS has digital touchless thermometers will be used daily upon entry in the morning and after lunch. A temperature above 37.7o C will require a student to return home until no symptoms are no longer present.

BBCS will work with its HTC Emergency Services, Bella Bella Hospital and the Hailika'as Health Centre to ensure policies and procedures are in place regarding reporting elevated staff and student absenteeism due to influenza-like illness.

BBCS will:

- Ensure school staff and other adults entering the school are aware of their responsibility to wear a mask and assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease prior to entering the school.
- Provide staff and families the following resources for guidance on symptoms and when to seek testing: BC Self-Assessment Tool app, When to Get Tested for COVID-19, calling 8-1-1, and contacting their health care provider.

- Verify that staff and adults have successfully completed a health check before entering the school and are aware of the mask requirements.
- Clearly communicate with parents and caregivers about their responsibility to assess their children daily before sending them to school.
- Maintain contact information for all visitors to the school and use a sign in/out process.
- BBCS will communicate on a regular basis with HTC Emergency Services, Bella Bella Hospital and the Hailika'as Health Centre to ensure a coordinated approach to managing illness at home.

6.3 Illness at School and Returning After Illness

If a student develops any symptoms of illness parents or caregivers must keep the student at home.

The designated space for an ill student or staff member to wait if they cannot return home immediately is: the Crystal Room (Mike's office) or the Conference Room.

Consistent with BCCDC recommendations the following steps will be taken in response to illness at school:

- Move the person to a space that is comfortable, safe, and supervised (if necessary). This can be a separate location (e.g., another room, a common space, or outdoors if weather allows), or in the same space (e.g., a classroom) if the person can consistently be 2-metres away from others.
- Contact the student's parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible (if applicable).
- If the ill person requires assistance, where possible, maintain a 2-metre distance. If not possible, staff should wear a mask if available and tolerated.
- Provide the person with a mask (if available and tolerated) or tissues if they are exhibiting respiratory symptoms (to cover their coughs or sneezes). Masks should not be worn if the person has gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., is at risk of vomiting). Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene.
- Avoid touching the person's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva, vomit). If you do, practice hand hygiene.
- Practice hand hygiene after the person has left.
- Staff responsible for facility cleaning should clean and disinfect the surfaces in spaces where the person's body fluids may have been in contact while they were ill (e.g., their desk in a classroom, the bathroom stall they used, etc.).
- Staff, students, and parent/caregivers will be encouraged to go to the BCCDC website to find information about what to do when they are sick with COVID-19 symptoms. They will also be informed about the [BC Self Assessment Tool app](#) and to call 8-1-1, the Bella Bella Hospital at 250-957-2314, or their Community Health Nurse for guidance.

6.4 Illness at School: Managing School Exposures and Notifications

In the case of a possible COVID-19 exposure event, outbreak, or cluster, the BBCS will notify HTC Emergency Services Coordinator, Randy Carpenter.

7.0 Students with Disabilities/Diverse Abilities, Medical Complexity, and Delegated Care

7.1 Students with Immune Compromise or Medical Complexity

According to the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), most children with immune compromise can follow the same precautions for communicable diseases, including COVID-19 as the general population and can safely attend in-class instruction.

In-class instruction may not be suitable for some children with severe immune compromise or medical complexity, which should be determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with a medical health care provider. If in-class instruction is not right for the child, parents/caregivers who do not wish to register the child in an online/distributed learning program or home-schooling must obtain a doctor's note indicating the need for alternative learning arrangements due to the child's health-related risks. Boards/authorities are expected to work with these families to ensure access to learning and supports.

- Staff will use standard precautions in their work with students with disabilities and diverse abilities.
- Extra effort will be made to communicate on a regular basis with parents to ensure student needs are being met.
- If space limitations make it necessary to reduce the number of students in a learning environment, students who will most benefit from in-person support and learners with diverse needs will be prioritized.
- Clear masks that cover the nose and mouth will be used when facial communication is necessary for student learning and understanding.
- Parents /caregivers of children who are at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 will be encouraged to consult a healthcare provider to determine their child's level of risk.
- BBCS will work with families to develop options for student safety and learning.

7.2 Parents/Caregivers with Immune Compromise or Medical Complexity

Parents/caregivers with severe immune compromise are encouraged to contact their school administrator to discuss available options for their child (including ensuring appropriate preventative measures).

8.0 Extracurricular Activities and Community Use of School Facilities

Guidance and Considerations (for board information only, will be removed for final document)

The BCCDC Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools advises that school extracurricular activities should occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders.

For music and physical education extracurricular activities, the BCCDC recommends that schools should continue to implement universal communicable disease prevention practices specific to the activity. For example, equipment that touches the mouth (e.g., water bottles, instrument mouth pieces) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in-between use. Hands should be cleaned before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment (e.g. before and after a sports game using a shared ball).

When planning overnight trips that include group accommodation, schools should consider guidance provided from the BCCDC and the BC Camps Association.

The BCCDC recommends that staff and student attendance records relating to extracurricular activities should be kept for at least 45 days.

Community Use of School Facilities

The BCCDC Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools advises that schools can continue to allow community use of school facilities.

Community use of school facilities should be approved by the school board and aligned with applicable public health guidance, recommendations and Orders.

In addition to this advice, the Ministry of Education's Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings for public and non-First Nations independent schools indicates that after hours use of facilities is allowed in alignment with other health and safety measures that include diligent hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, ensuring participants stay home if they are feeling ill, and where possible, limiting building access to only those areas required for the purpose of the activity.

The Ministry of Education also indicates that community users are responsible for collecting names and contact information of participants to support contact tracing activities by the local health authority.

- Extracurricular activities and community use of school facilities will proceed in alignment with relevant local, regional, Provincial and Federal public health recommendations and Orders and in alignment with direction from HTC Emergency Services and the School Board.

- Attendance records for extracurricular and community use activities will be maintained for 45 days. In the case of community users, the community users are responsible for collecting the names and contact information of participants.
- All community users will be required to be double vaccinated, and a plan must be presented that details the checking for BC Vaccine Card, with the QR Code.
- Community users will be advised of the school's communicable disease plan, including the requirement for people to complete a daily health check and not enter the school if they are sick and to clean hands before and after using frequently touched items.

9.0 Food Services

BBCS will emphasize to students, teachers, and parents/caregivers that food and beverages should not be shared.

BBCS will ensure any sanitizers or disinfectants used on food contact surfaces are approved for use in a food service application and are appropriate for use against communicable diseases, including COVID-19.

Students involved in food preparation and distribution as part of their learning will be taught and supported to practice relevant food safety practices, including hand hygiene.

9.1 School Meal Programs

Our existing meal programs will continue within learning groups, and in collaboration with community partners in alignment with current public health guidelines.

The school will continue to include food preparation as part of learning and provide food services, including meal programs.

- If food is prepared as part of learning and is consumed by the student(s) who prepared it, no additional measures beyond those articulated in this document and normal food safety measures and requirements need to be implemented (e.g. FOODSAFE trained staff, a food safety plan, etc.).
- If food is prepared within or outside a school for consumption by people other than those that prepared it, it is expected that the WorkSafe BC Restaurants, cafes, pubs, and nightclubs: Protocols for returning to operation are implemented as appropriate and as relevant to the school setting, in addition to normally implemented food safety measures and requirements (e.g. FOODSAFE trained staff, a food safety plan, etc.).
- There will be no homemade food items to be made available to other students at this time (e.g. birthday treats, bake sale items).

10.0 Outside the Classroom

10.1 School Gatherings and Events

- School gatherings and events (e.g., assemblies, parent-teacher interviews, etc.) will be held virtually.
If gatherings and events must be in-person (e.g., inter-school sports game, theatre productions), minimize the number of people in attendance as much as possible, do not exceed 50% operating capacity, and do not allow spectators.
- Full contact details will be collected for visitors at school gatherings.
- All participants at school events, with community attendees will require to be double vaccinated and all participants will be screened using the BC Vaccine Card with QR Code.
- School gatherings will be planned in alignment with regional, provincial, and federal public health recommendations and Orders and in alignment with direction from HTC Emergency Services recommendations.
- For indoor spaces without a defined operating capacity, schools will determine a capacity limit that is at most half the number of individuals that would be within the space for that activity or event if prevention measures weren't in place.

10.2 Extracurricular activities including sports, arts and special interest clubs

Extracurricular, including sports tournaments arts and special interest clubs can proceed without an audience. All communicated participants need to provide confirmation of covid19 vaccination.

10.3 Work Placements & Apprenticeships

- School administration and/or the School Board will assess and determine if it is safe for students to remain on work placements and apprenticeships.
- For work placements that cannot continue in person, districts and schools will determine if alternate methods to continue learning or accumulate volunteer hours for work placements are possible.
- Students are encouraged to talk to their teachers about work placements and apprenticeships.

10.4 School Libraries / Kakaxila (HS Commons)

- School libraries and learning commons facilities should be open and book exchange can continue to occur during stages 1 to 4.
- Students and staff will practice diligent hand hygiene: wash hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds (antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19). Students and staff should wash their hands:
 - o before and after handling shared equipment/resources
 - o whenever hands are visibly dirty
- Laminated paper-based products, including laminated books, should be cleaned and

disinfected daily if:

- They are touched by multiple people or upon return, before reshelving
- For information on cleaning, including technological devices
- When visiting the library/Kakaxila, students and staff should remain in their learning group as much as possible and maintain physical distance from members outside of their learning group.
- Physical distance needs to be maintained regularly, as students are signing out or requesting library services.

10.8 Other Considerations

The following strategies should be implemented wherever possible in the K-12 school setting:

- Avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, handshakes).
- Encourage students and staff to not touch their faces.
- Use strategies that prevent crowding at pick-up and drop-off times.
- Stagger recess/snack, lunch and class transition times to provide a greater amount of space for everyone.
- Use four designated entrances: one for each primary, intermediate, high school and staff.
- Take students outside more often.
 - Organize learning activities outside including snack time, place-based learning and unstructured time.
 - Take activities that involve movement, including those for physical health and education, outside.
 - Playgrounds are a safe environment. Ensure appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play.

Parents, caregivers, health-care providers, volunteers and other non-staff adults (e.g. visitors) entering the school should be prioritized to those supporting activities that are of benefit to student learning and wellbeing (e.g. teacher candidates, immunizers, meal program volunteers, etc.).

All visitors should confirm they have completed the requirements of a daily health check before entering.

Schools should keep a list of the date, names and contact information for all visitors who enter the school.

11.0 Appendix A: Further Information

11.1 Key Resources

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) is an important source of information about COVID-19. Resources available on their website can be used to support learning and to respond to questions you may receive from members of your school community. More information is available at <http://www.bccdc.ca/schools>

BCCDC Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

Ministry of Education Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidlines.pdf>

COVID-19 Safe Schools:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

Operational Guidelines for School Districts and Public Health Authorities:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/safe-caring-and-orderly-schools>

11.2 Newly Added Resources

BCCDC Contact Tracing Infographic:

http://www.bccdc.ca/schools/Documents/Contact_Tracing.pdf

BCCDC Contact Tracing in Schools One-Pager:

http://www.bccdc.ca/schools/Documents/Contact_tracing_schools_2021.pdf

COVID-19 Protocols for School and District Administrators: Management of Illness and Exposures at School:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/covid-19-protocols-for-administrators.pdf>

Regional Health Authorities:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/partners/health-authorities/regional-health-authorities>

BCCDC Indigenous Community Resources:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/indigenous-community-resources>

11.3 Additional Resources

FNESC and FNSA COVID-19 Protocols for First Nations School Administrators: Management of Illness and Exposures at School:

<http://www.fnesc.ca/covid-19-protocols-for-first-nations-school-administrators/>

Health Canada list of hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers for use against coronavirus (COVID-19): <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>

Federal Guidance for School Bus Operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/initiatives/covid-19-measures-updates-guidance-issued-transport-canada/federal-guidance-school-bus-operations-during-covid-19-pandemic>

BCCDC Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance_Child_Care.pdf

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-response-covid-19/child-care-response-covid-19-provider/child-care-response-covid-19-health-safety>

11.4 WorkSafeBC Protocols on COVID-19 Communicable Disease Prevention:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/covid-19/bcs-four-step-restart>

Health Canada COVID-19 Guidance for the 2021/2022 school year:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/planning-2021-2022-school-year-vaccination.html>

Health Canada COVID-19 Vaccines for Children:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/vaccination-children/covid-19.html>

BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool:

<https://bc.thrive.health>

BCCDC K-12 Health Check:

<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>

BCCDC When To Get Tested for COVID-19?:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/When_to_get_tested.pdf

BCCDC posters, (e.g. screening and self-check tools, physical distancing):

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/signage-posters>

COVID-related mask use information:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/masks>

12.0 Appendix B: School Planning Checklist

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools

Health and Safety Checklist



Complete this checklist with your school's health and safety committee to assess your school's communicable disease plan with the Ministry of Education's [COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#), which includes detailed guidance on the measures noted below. This checklist should be used in addition to the guidelines to develop and assess your school's communicable disease plan.

SCHOOL: _____ **DATE:** _____

Measures below should always be in place.

Public Health Measures		
Attendance & Record Keeping	Practices in place to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain daily attendance records for staff, students, and visitors (including teachers on call, itinerant teachers/specialists, district/authority personnel, parents/caregivers, and volunteers), and maintain accurate class and bus lists. Daily attendance records should be kept for at least 45 days.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Environmental Measures		
Ventilation and Air Exchange	All HVAC systems are operated and maintained as per standards and specifications, and are working properly.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Portable air conditioners and fans are only used in ventilated spaces, with air moved from high to low.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Risk mitigation strategies are identified for excessive heat events or times of poor air quality.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Cleaning and Disinfecting	Frequently touched surfaces (those touched by larger numbers of people) are cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day. Surfaces touched by fewer people are cleaned 1x/day.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Practices are in place to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces when they are dirty.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Other general cleaning occurs in line with regular practices.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Practices are in place to clean and disinfect any surfaces a person's body fluids have contacted after they have displayed symptoms of illness.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Administrative Measures		
Gatherings and events	School extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools) are in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, Provincial and Federal health recommendations and Orders.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Space Arrangement	In indoor spaces, people have enough room to carry out intended activities without involuntary physical contact and all available space is used.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools

Health and Safety Checklist



Administrative Measures		
	For indoor gatherings, people are spread out within the available space and room capacity limits are not exceeded.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	During breaks and other unstructured time in indoor settings, strategies are in place to ensure there is enough space available to prevent involuntary physical contact.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Staff Specific Considerations	WorkSafe BC guidance for workplaces is used to determine measures for staff-only spaces within a school and/or for non-school spaces operated by the school district/authority.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Staff-only gatherings (e.g., meetings, professional development days, etc.) occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, Provincial, and Federal public health recommendations and Orders for workplace gatherings and events and any related WorkSafe BC guidance.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Visitors, including Itinerant Staff, Temporary Teachers on Call, Parents and Others	Processes are in place to ensure itinerant staff, teachers on call and visitors are aware of the school's communicable disease plan and their responsibility to follow measures at all times.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Curriculum, Programs and Activities	For music and physical education (and other subjects as necessary), prevention practices specific to the activity are implemented (e.g., cleaning mouth pieces and water bottles between use).	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Local and international field trips occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, Provincial, and Federal public health recommendations and Orders for local and/or international travel.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Bus Transportation	Frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day. Surfaces touched by fewer people are cleaned 1x/day.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Practices are in place to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces when they are dirty.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Other general cleaning occurs in line with regular practices.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Practices are in place to encourage bus drivers and passengers to practice hand hygiene before and after trips.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Spread passengers out if empty seats are available.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Windows are opened when the weather allows.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Bus drivers, adult volunteers and visitors, and students in Grade 4 or higher wear masks according to the guidelines or applicable public health orders/recommendations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Grade K-3 students wear masks based on their personal or family/caregivers' choice.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Food Services	Food services (e.g., meal programs, cafeterias, fundraisers, etc.), are following regular operational and food safety practices.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools

Health and Safety Checklist



Administrative Measures		
Community Use of Schools	Community use of school facilities is aligned with related public health guidance, recommendations and Orders.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Water Fountains	The use of water fountains is not limited.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included

Personal Measures		
Daily Health Checks	Staff, parents and students are regularly reminded of their responsibilities to complete a Daily Health Check and are provided with resources on how to complete one (e.g., the K-12 Health Check app).	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Stay Home When Sick / What To Do When Sick	Staff and students are regularly reminded to stay home when they are sick and are provided with resources on what to do when they are sick (e.g., the BC Self-Assessment Tool app).	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Symptoms Develop at School	Practices are in place to appropriately respond when a staff member, student, or other person develops symptoms of illness while at school.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Returning to School After Illness	Health care provider notes (i.e., a doctor's note) are not required to confirm the health status of any individual, beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual practice.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette	Hand cleaning facilities are available and accessible throughout the school and are well maintained.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included

Personal Protective Equipment		
Masks	Staff, adult volunteers and visitors, and students in Grade 4 and higher in "bricks and mortar" schools wear a non-medical mask or face covering (a "mask") according to the guidelines or applicable public health orders/recommendations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Grade K-3 students wear masks based on their personal or family/caregivers' choice.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
	Masks are available for those who have forgotten theirs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included


Supportive School Environments		
Personal Prevention Practices	Strategies are in place to routinely support students to practice personal prevention measures like hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (e.g., signage, included in morning announcements, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/> Included

Health and Safety Checklist

Personal Space	Strategies are in place to encourage staff and students to consider and respect others personal space. Personal space is the distance from which a person feels comfortable being next to another person.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included
Positive & Inclusive Approaches	Positive and inclusive approaches identified to support students' personal prevention practices.	<input type="checkbox"/> Included

The information included in this checklist is based on the Ministry of Education COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings. As such, there may be differences between the checklist and the information in this guidance document.

13.0 Appendix C: Daily Health Check

	
DAILY HEALTH CHECK	
KEY SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS	WHAT TO DO
Fever (above 38°C)	If yes to 1 or more of these symptoms: Stay home. Contact a health care provider or call 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.
Chills	
Cough	
Difficulty breathing	
Loss of sense of smell or taste	
OTHER SYMPTOMS	WHAT TO DO
Sore throat	If yes to 1 symptom: Stay home until you feel better.
Loss of appetite	
Headache	If yes to 2 or more of these symptoms: Stay home for 24 hours. If symptoms don't get better or get worse, contact a health care provider or call 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.
Body aches	
Extreme fatigue or tiredness	
Nausea or vomiting	
Diarrhea	
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL:	WHAT TO DO
Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	If yes: Fully vaccinated students, staff and other adults who have travelled outside of Canada may qualify for the fully vaccinated traveller exemption . Students, staff and other adults who are not fully vaccinated and have travelled outside of Canada CANNOT attend school for 14 days after arrival , as part of federal requirements .
CLOSE CONTACT	WHAT TO DO
Have you been notified by public health that you are a close contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	If yes: Follow the instructions provided by Public Health.

You can also check your symptoms with the [K-12 Health Check](#) or the [BC Self-Assessment Tool](#).

Call 8-1-1 with any questions about symptoms of illness. If you have severe symptoms, like difficulty breathing (struggling to breathe or you can only speak single words) or chest pain, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department.

Visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control website](#) for more information on COVID-19.

13.0 Appendix D: Planning Resource: Mask Exemptions



COVID-19 Planning resource: *mask exemptions*



PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MASKS IN K-12 SCHOOLS



- The Provincial Health Officer's [Face Coverings Order](#) requires all K-12 staff, students and visitors to wear face coverings (masks) in schools and on buses.
- The [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines](#) (page.19) also requires K-12 students, staff and visitors to wear masks in schools and on school buses.
- Exemptions for visitors, staff, and students include*:
 - If the person is unable to wear a mask because of:
 - A psychological, behavioural or health condition, or a physical, cognitive, or mental impairment, or
 - They are unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person.

ADDRESSING MASK EXEMPTIONS FOR STUDENTS, STAFF AND VISITORS

Schools are expected to work with staff, students (or their parents/caregivers, if applicable) and visitors with mask exemptions to explore potential strategies to reinforce and enhance other safety measures to ensure their safety and the safety of others. They are not required to provide a doctor's note. Alternative measures must not be punitive or stigmatizing in nature, or prevent a student from attending or fully participating in-person at school.



The following strategies can support conversations between school staff, students and families regarding mask exemptions.

- Share information from the BC Centre for Disease Control on the [benefits of wearing masks](#). Key messages include:
 - *Masks have a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19, by helping to stop the spread of droplets from a person's mouth and nose when talking, laughing, yelling, singing, coughing, or sneezing.*
 - *Masks provide protection to the person wearing them **and to those around them.***
 - *Masks complement and build on the other safety measures in schools. They work best when everyone who can wear a mask is wearing one.*
 - *Mask requirements in K-12 schools are similar to requirements in other indoor public spaces (e.g., shopping malls, grocery stores, recreation centres, post-secondary institutions, public transit, etc.).*

**This resource outlines exemptions as described in the PHO Face Coverings Order. This Order takes precedence over the requirements outlined in the Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines as it is more restrictive. In the case of any variance between the PHO Order and the guidelines, the more restrictive measure should apply.*



(MASK EXEMPTION STRATEGIES CONT'D...)

- Explore a different type of face covering
 - *Can the person wear a **different type of mask**, or a face shield (without a mask)?*
- Examine options regarding limiting mask use to certain activities
 - *If the issue relates to having to wear a mask all day, can the person wear a mask during face-to-face classroom activities and hallway transitions but be able to take the mask off while working alone at their desk/workstation?*
 - *Can they use existing opportunities to remove masks more often, like spending breaks outdoors when the weather allows?*
- Explore opportunities to reinforce and enhance other safety measures
 - *For example, is the person willing to increase physical distance from others, provided that doing so does not result in them being isolated or excluded (e.g., being removed from a classroom, not being included in certain activities, working behind a barrier unless requested by the individual/family, etc.)?*
 - *The person must still follow all other required safety measures while at school (e.g., daily health checks, frequent hand hygiene, respecting others personal space, spreading out during activities, etc.).*
 - *Consider inclusive ways to create more space between everyone and adapt activities to minimize close, prolonged contact.*
 - *Discuss how the school is fostering a supportive school environment, recognizing the pandemic has impacted everyone differently. Share trauma-informed practices in place, including respecting the personal experiences and practices of others (e.g., being considerate of personal space, supporting others wearing masks, etc.).*



Alternative arrangements for students with mask exemptions should be communicated to staff (including itinerant staff and Teachers on Call) as necessary to avoid stigmatizing students.

For more information on how schools can support students and staff in practicing personal preventive measures, see the *Supportive School Environments* section of the [Guidelines](#) on page. 7.

