



COVID-19 School Start Updates

ArtsCalibre Academy staff and students have a shared responsibility in protecting themselves and our school community from the spread of COVID 19 and other communicable disease. This year, our school is happy to return to almost pre-pandemic operations that will balance ongoing preventive measures to keep us all healthy and learning at school.

The following four pages have been adapted from the Greater Victoria School District Communicable Disease Prevention Plan – School Site Procedures (dated August 2022).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	Page 2
COVID-19 Preventative Measures.....	Page 2
Stay Home When Sick.....	Page 2
Daily Health Check.....	Page 3
Entering / Leaving the Building.....	Page 3
School Hours / Access	Page 3
Students with Disabilities and Diverse Abilities.....	Page 4
Students with Medical Complexity, Immune Suppression and/or Receiving Delegated Care.....	Page 4
What to Do If a Student or Staff Member Develops Symptoms at School	Page 4
Non-Medical Masks.....	Page 5
General Ventilation and Air Circulation	Page 5
Staff Meetings and Professional Development Activities	Page 5
Prep/Photocopier/Supply Rooms.....	Page 5
Other Shared or Specialty Spaces.....	Page 5

Introduction

All school staff have a shared responsibility in protecting themselves and students from the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable disease. The BCCDC reports that school-aged children have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, including worsened wellbeing, more child stress, less connection to friends, and learning impacts. Getting children to return to closer-to-normal learning, recreational and social activities is an important pandemic recovery action.

With BC's highly immunized population providing greater community protection against COVID-19, our schools can return to closer-to-normal operations balanced with ongoing prevention measures.

All employees are expected to read, know and organize their work in accordance with this **Prevention Plan** and **BC Centre for Disease Control Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools**. The **Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings** has been developed by the Ministry of Education to compliment the BCCDC and WorkSafeBC guidance and provides more details specific to school settings and applications of the health and safety guidelines to curriculum, programs and other educational activities.

Resources: [Worksafe BC Guidance for Workplaces](#)
 [BCCDC Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)
 [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)



COVID-19 Preventative Measures

1. **GET FULLY VACCINATED** - Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools.
2. **STAY HOME WHEN SICK** - All students, staff, and school visitors must complete the daily health check.
3. **HAND HYGIENE** - Everyone should clean their hands more often! Thorough hand washing with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness.
4. **RESPIRATORY AND PERSONAL HYGIENE** - Cover your coughs. Do not touch your face.
5. **MINIMIZE PHYSICAL CONTACT** - No sharing of food, drinks, or personal items. Spread students and staff out to different areas when possible. Take students outside more often. Remind students to respect the personal space of others.
6. **CLEANING AND DISINFECTION** - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces every 24 hours. General cleaning of the school should occur daily.
7. **NON-MEDICAL MASKS** can provide an additional layer of protection.

Stay Home When Sick

- **Students, staff or other adults should stay at home when sick**, as this is one of the most important ways to reduce the introduction and the spread of COVID-19 in schools.
- Parents and caregivers **must perform the Daily Health Check with their children** and follow the directions as to when to stay home. You can find the [daily health checklist here](#).
 - » **If a child has any key symptoms of illness, they must not go to school.**
- **Staff, volunteers and other adults must perform a daily health check** prior to entering a school. You can find the [daily health checklist here](#).

Daily Health Check:

Everyone going into a school must complete a daily health check, including staff, visitors, and students. A daily health check means checking yourself or your child for new symptoms of illness, including symptoms of COVID-19.

Symptoms of illness (including COVID-19) include things like:

- Fever (above 38°C) or chills
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny Nose
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Sneezing
- Body aches
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting

IF YOU ARE SICK OR FEEL UNWELL, STAY AT HOME.
This is important to stop the spread of illness, including COVID-19, in schools.

If you are unsure about your symptoms, you can use the [Self-Assessment Tool](#), contact your health care provider, or call 8-1-1.

You can attend school if:

- *Your symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies), OR*
- *You have existing symptoms that have improved to where you feel well enough to return to regular activities,*

AND if you are not required to self-isolate, or your self-isolation period is over (based on a positive COVID-19 test result, if taken). For more information on self isolation, please visit the [BCCDC website](#).

Entering / Leaving the Building

- *Each school will implement strategies to prevent crowding when students and staff are entering and exiting.*
- *Wash your hands after you enter the building and disinfect your workspace as needed.*

School Hours / Access

- *Only use the designated entrances and exits.*
- *School will be open to staff from 7a.m. to 5p.m., Monday to Friday.*
- *Rentals for community events will be compliant with COVID-19 protocols.*
- *Parents and guardians will be encouraged to use phone or email to meet with staff or make an appointment.*

Students with Disabilities and Diverse Abilities

Supporting students with disabilities/diverse abilities may require staff providing support services to be in close physical proximity or in physical contact with a student.

Those providing health or education services that require being in close proximity to a student should follow their standard risk assessment methods to determine what PPE is needed for general communicable disease prevention in accordance with routine practices. Additional personal protective equipment is not required beyond that used in their regular course of work (e.g., gloves for toileting).

Students are not required to wear a mask or face covering when receiving services, though may continue to based on their or their parent/caregiver's personal choice.

Schools should continue to have non-medical masks on hand for those who have forgotten theirs but would like to wear one.

Students with Medical Complexity, Immune Suppression and/or Receiving Delegated Care

According to the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), most children with immune compromise can follow the same precautions for 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, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with a medical health care provider.

What to Do If a Student or Staff Member Develops Symptoms At School

IF STUDENT DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL

Staff must take the following steps:

1. Immediately separate the symptomatic student from others in the designated area.
2. Ensure the student keeps their mask on. If the student does not have a mask they will be provided with a disposable mask or tissues to cover their coughs or sneezes. Used tissues will be disposed of as soon as possible and hand hygiene performed.
3. The office will contact the student's parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible.
4. Where possible, maintain a 2-metre distance from the ill student. If not possible, staff supervising the student will wear a mask or face covering.
5. Staff must avoid touching the student's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva). If staff do, practice diligent hand hygiene.
6. Once the student is picked up, all staff supervising the student must practice diligent hand hygiene.
7. The custodian must clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated and any areas recently used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).

Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.

IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT WORK

Staff must notify the administrator and go home as soon as possible.

If unable to leave immediately:

1. Symptomatic staff must separate themselves into an area away from others, outside if practical.
2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.
3. Use a mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait to leave the premises.
4. The custodian must clean and disinfect the space where the staff member was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

**BC COVID-19 Symptom
Self-Assessment Tool**

Non-Medical Masks

Students are not required to wear a mask or face covering. The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice for staff, students and visitors.

A person's choice should be supported and respected.

Staff should utilize positive and inclusive approaches to engage students in personal prevention practices aligned with existing professional practices to address behaviour. Approaches should not exclude students from participating in school or potentially result in stigma.

Schools should continue to have non-medical masks on hand for those who have forgotten theirs but would like to wear one, or who become ill at school.



General Ventilation and Air Circulation

Active air systems are to be on at all times in all learning spaces. These include air purifiers in addition to open windows and doors to promote air circulation (weather permitting). Outside learning is built into the timetable.



Staff Meetings and Professional Development Activities

- *Staff meetings and professional development activities held in person must respect room occupancy limits and use available space to spread people out.*
- *Consider use of virtual options and gradual transition to in-person meetings.*

Prep/Photocopier/Supply Rooms

- *Wash hands before and after using equipment.*
- *Administrators should work with staff to set occupancy limits to prevent involuntary physical contact and to allow for the respect of the personal space of others.*

Other Shared or Specialty Spaces

- *Administrators will develop protocols for use of other shared spaces within their individual buildings (libraries, gyms, shops, etc.) and post signage.*
- *Protocols for these spaces must be in line with district protocols.*