

Illness Prevention Protocols and Practices

Preamble

The purpose of this document is to outline the policies, protocols and procedures to follow while the school is required to follow requirements and recommendations as authorized by the Canadian Federal Government, Provincial Government, BC Ministry of Education, Kelowna Municipal Government, local health authority (Interior Health) and the BC SDA Conference Office of Education. Please reference the following resources:

- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/safe-caring-and-orderly-schools>
- https://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/communicable_disease/Guidance_Child_Care.pdf
- [BC Conference Communicable Disease Prevention Plan](#)

Plan Background

The Government of BC has established that brick-and-mortar schools in BC are safe and healthy environments when proper protocols and practices are in place. Limiting time spent in schools has a greater impact on learning than concerns over illness.

1. Home Expectations

The follow are responsibilities that parents/guardians/students MUST do to support healthy schools:

- a) Do a daily health check BEFORE coming to school.
- b) Stay home when sick (cold, flu, or other illness symptoms).
- c) Practice personal preventive measures at home and school (ex. Good hand hygiene and covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze).
- d) Staying informed on current health guidelines and recommendations.
- e) Food brought to school for sharing with other students or staff must be allergy-aware.

2. General School Guidelines

- a) Have access to hand and face hygiene products (ex. Hand sanitizer and tissue)
- b) Classrooms must be decluttered with non-essential items and furniture removed to allow for efficient and effective ongoing and nightly custodial cleaning.
- c) Students will have access to soap and sinks to wash their hands in the classroom or washroom.
- d) Desktops and counter surfaces **must be kept clear** to facilitate daily cleaning.
- e) High use equipment (ex. Shared PE and Music equipment) should be disinfected between use.
- f) Hot lunch and food services will be offered as the school is able to.

3. Health Protocols

- a) Non-medical masks – A personal choice for those who deem it necessary. This choice will be respected by all staff.
- b) Staff will consistently model and practice illness prevention measures.
- c) Respiratory Etiquette (students and staff):
 - i) Cough and sneeze into their elbow, sleeve, or tissue. Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.



- ii) Refrain from touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- iii) Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unwashed utensils, etc.
- d) Dealing with onset of illness during the school day:
 - i) Student will be isolated and supervised in a designated room (First aid room) until they leave the building.
 - ii) Parent or designated emergency contact will be contacted immediately to arrange pickup.
 - iii) The room will be disinfected once the person has left (by the designated supervisor- who will wear PPE).
 - iv) A symptomatic staff member will be required to physical distance (2m) from ALL others until their student supervision can be replaced.
 - v) Anyone with illness symptoms will be encouraged to self-isolate until their symptoms resolve or as per the following guidelines:

Communicable Diseases - Disease Incubation Exclusion Period

Disease	Incubation	Exclusion Period
Chicken Pox	2-3 weeks	7 days from appearance of rash
Impetigo	2-5 days	until crusts are off and sores dry
Mumps	12-26 days	until swelling subsides, about 7 days
Rubella (German)	10-21 days	5 days from onset
Measles	10-14 days	7 days from appearance of rash
Pink Eye	3-5 days	until eye is clear
Meningitis	extremely short	48 hours after fever subsides
“Common” virus	2-10 days	5-10 days (until symptoms clear up)

4. Cleaning

- a) Cleaning will be facilitated by contracted cleaners. They will do daily cleaning as needed.
- b) Disinfecting procedure will include spraying the surface with disinfectant supplied, letting it sit for 30 seconds, then wiping it away with a clean rag.
- c) High touch areas will be cleaned/disinfected daily.
- d) Garbages to be emptied daily.

7. Continuity of Learning

- a) All students will have access and be required to attend school in-person 5 days per week.
- b) Teachers will be developing lessons to allow for a continuity of learning (ex. through MyOCS) in unforeseen circumstances (ex. long-term illness or injury). Chromebooks may be loaned to students, so that access to technology may continue in a safe manner.

