



G.A.D. Elementary School

Addendum to Communicable Disease Plan 2021-2022

August 30, 2021

October 1, 2021

Feb 15, 2022

March 25, 2022

April 11, 2022

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http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance_k-12_schools.pdf

Many of the safety protocols remain the same or have been enhanced. Sections highlighted in pink are the most recent changes or have been highlighted from prior as a reinforcement.

Please be reminded that these measures can change; provincial Orders can be circumvented by local or regional Orders when deemed necessary by the Medical Health Officer in our region to help mitigate the spread.

Both psychological safety measures and trauma-informed practice alongside physical health and safety measures should be implemented.

A trauma-informed lens should be used when planning school activities (e.g. gatherings and events) and interacting with other staff and students, including considerations around respecting others' personal space.

Students/staff may choose to wear masks, face shields or other PPE in schools beyond the basic requirements, those choices must be respected.

Public Health Measures

Daily attendance records for staff, students and visitors (including itinerant staff, TTOC's, parents/caregivers and volunteers) should be maintained and accurate class and bus lists to assist with contact tracing if necessary. These attendance lists should be kept up to **45 days** to help with contact tracing and retrospective analysis by public health (if required). This includes records for all school-supported activities, including extracurricular activities and field trips.

Environmental Measures

Space arrangement:

- **In Learning environments, schools can return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet the learners needs and preferred educational approaches**

<p><u>Cleaning and Disinfecting:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Always wash hands before and after handling shared objects ● Items and surfaces that children have placed in their mouths or that have been in contact with bodily fluids should be cleaned as soon as possible and between uses by different children ● Dishwasher- safe items can be cleaned and disinfected in a dishwasher with a hot rinse cycle ● General cleaning and cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned at least once in a 24 hour period ● Clean and disinfect any visibly dirty surface ● Empty garbage containers daily
<p><u>Frequently Touched Surfaces:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limiting access to water fountains is no longer recommended. Hand hygiene should be practiced before and after use. Schools should ensure non-drinkable (non-potable) water sources are not used for drinking water and that these are labeled as such ● School communicable disease plans should not include restricting access to water, washrooms or other spaces that support students' learning and well-being. Schools should return to full operation of all spaces in alignment with the protocols outlined in this document. ● All frequently touched surfaces, as mentioned in the original document, should be cleaned often, and/or after each use. ● Equipment such as sand, toys, manipulatives, playdough etc. that cannot be cleaned can be used as long as hand hygiene is practiced before and after use. Carpets and rugs can also be used ● Textbooks, paper, or other paper-based products, laminated or glossy paper-based products, items with plastic covers (DVD's), have a low risk of transmission of Covid-19. There is no need to disinfect/clean or quarantine for any period of time these items.
<p><u>General Ventilation and Air Circulation:</u></p>	<p>Continue to ensure that All HVAC systems are operated and maintained as per standards and specifications, and are working properly</p> <p>When using ac or fans in ventilated spaces, air should be moved from high places to lower places instead of blowing air directly from one person's breathing zone to another's. Avoid horizontal cross breezes.</p> <p>Open windows when the weather permits if it doesn't impact the functioning of ventilation systems. Taking students outside more often is no longer necessary for communicable disease prevention.</p>

Administrative Measures

<p><u>Physical Distancing and Space Arrangement:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students have a designated door for entry to reduce contact. ● Notice to parents has been sent to reinforce a staggered start and assigned entrance and exit from the school ● Staggered dismissal and lunch breaks will continue ● Teacher support to monitor transition between classes and during break times (use of washroom facilities) ● Students will sign in and out of class (no more than 1 at a time) to use the washroom <p>There are other measures the school can consider instead to support student/staff in returning to school using a trauma-informed approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use available space to spread people out, both in learning environments and for gatherings and events, where possible. ● Stagger lunch time as well as transitions to provide a greater amount of space for everyone
<p><u>Staff Only Spaces:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gatherings must adhere to relevant local/regional/provincial/federal public health recommendations and orders and any Worksafebc guidance: these are returning to normal practice and doing what makes you comfortable as far as distancing and mask wearing ● Proper hand washing/sanitizing is still encouraged
<p><u>School Gatherings and Events:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools), regardless of location, should occur in line with the guidance in this document as well as any applicable local, regional, or provincial public health recommendations and Orders . ● The space must be used to spread people out as much as possible ● Respecting students/staff comfort levels regarding personal space
<p><u>Itinerant staff, TTOC's and other visitors:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will be informed prior to attendance all safety measures in place and understand their responsibility to adhere to those protocols ● Health checks must be done prior to entering the school
<p><u>Visitor Access/Community Use:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schools can return to their normal practice for welcoming visitors

<u>Personal Items:</u>	Staff/students can continue to bring personal items to school but they should be encouraged to not share items that come in contact with the mouth.
<u>Supporting Student with Disabilities/Diverse Abilities:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who provide services to students with medical complexity, immune suppression, receiving delegated care, or with disabilities or diverse abilities that require them to be in close proximity to a student should follow routine infection control practices needed for general communicable disease prevention.
<u>Student Transportation: Buses:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For school buses, schools can return to normal seating and onloading/offloading practices.
<u>Carpooling:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread out vehicle occupants as much as possible • Travel with the same people as much as possible • Set the vehicles ventilation to bring in fresh outside air, and do not recirculate the air • Open windows when weather allows • Clean hands before and after trips • Clean frequently touched surfaces frequently
<u>Curriculum, Programs and Activities:</u>	<p>All curriculum, programs and activities should operate in alignment with current provincial K-12 health and safety protocols, including school-led activities off-campus.</p> <p>Field Trips: When planning field trips, staff should follow existing policies and procedures as well as the guidance in this document ; additional measures specific to field trips should be taken including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look to the transportation part of this document for bus and carpool guidelines • Schools must ensure that all supervising volunteers are trained in and strictly adhere to required health and safety guidelines • Alignment with relevant and up to date local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders
<u>Food Services:</u>	<p>Food and beverages should continue to not be shared (no physical contact of other peoples' foods should be permitted-see below). Hot lunches and shared food is permitted if a designated person with proper PPE is serving all involved onto individual plates/serving dishes.</p>
<u>Kindergarten Program and Entry:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicable disease prevention measures will be included in all communications to students and their families prior to the school year • Provide opportunities for students to practice respecting personal space- recognizing they are unlikely to be able to do this at all times

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gently remind students of the expectations throughout the day and encourage them to kindly support one another ● As long as proper hand hygiene measures are practiced, toys, manipulatives and other hard to clean, frequently touched items can be used. Carpets and rugs can also be used.
<p><u>Music Programs:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● K-12 staff and students no longer must wear masks, it is a matter of personal choice ● Shared equipment should be cleaned and disinfected; students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after music equipment use
<p><u>Physical and Health Education (PHE)/Outdoor Programs:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spread students out and staff as much as possible in the available space and encourage outdoor activities and programs as much as possible (while it is not mandated we can still encourage) ● K-12 staff and students Grades K to 12 are no longer required to wear masks during PHE/outdoor program classes when they are indoors and a barrier isn't present ● Students are not required to wear masks during high-intensity physical activities. Wearing a mask during these activities is left to the students' personal choice. Staff are encouraged to move high-intensity physical activities outdoors whenever possible ● For low intensity activities (eg: yoga, walking) students are also not required to wear masks when they are indoors and a barrier is not present ● Shared equipment can be used provided it is cleaned and disinfected as per the guidelines in the Cleaning and Disinfecting section of this document (also refer to the previous document if necessary- same cleaning guidelines apply) ● Students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment as well as proper respiratory etiquette ● Equipment that touches the mouth(eg: water bottles) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected between uses
<p><u>Playgrounds:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play ● Sand and water can be used for play if children wash their hands before and after play. Covid-19 doesn't survive well on surfaces, other than hard ones. There is no evidence showing that the virus survives on sand, in water or on playdough.
<p><u>School Libraries/Learning Commons:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currently there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper, or other paper-based products. This means there is no need to limit distribution/sharing or

	<p>quarantine books or paper-based educational resources to students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laminated or glossy paper-based products and items with plastic covers are low risk items for transmission. Regular book browsing and circulation processes can occur as normal. Disinfection, cleaning or quarantine is not required.
<p><u>School Sports:</u></p>	<p>Intra and inter- school programs, activities (eg: intramurals, sports team practices, games) sports academies and events can continue in alignment with the following guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements of relevant local, regional and provincial public health recommendations and Orders for community gathering and events • School extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools), regardless of location, should occur in line with the guidance in this document as well as any applicable local, regional, or provincial public health recommendations and Orders .
<p><u>Extracurricular Activities:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra curricular sporting events are allowed to take place Intra- and inter-school extracurricular activities and special interest clubs can occur in alignment with the guidelines in this document and requirements of relevant local, regional, and provincial public health recommendations and Orders for community gatherings and events.
<p><u>Theatre, Film and Dance programs:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread out students and staff within available space and encourage outdoor activities and programs as much as possible • K-12 staff are no longer required to wear masks during these programs when they are indoors and a barrier is not present • Students K-12 are no longer required to wear masks during these programs when they are indoors and a barrier is not present , except during high-intensity physical activity • Shared equipment such as set pieces, props, cameras etc. should be cleaned and disinfected as per cleaning and disinfecting guidelines in this document and students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment.

Personal Measures

<p><u>Symptoms Develop at School:</u></p>	<p>If a staff member, student or other person develops symptoms of illness at school:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Move the person to a space that is comfortable, safe and supervised (if necessary). It can be a separate room (sick room or common room) or in the same space if the person can maintain 2M from all others in the room.2. Contact the student's parent/caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible (if applicable)3. If the ill person requires assistance, where possible, maintain a 2m distance. If not possible staff should wear a mask if available and tolerated4. Provide the ill person with a mask (if available and tolerated) or tissues if they are having respiratory symptoms. Masks should not be worn if the person has gastrointestinal symptoms (eg: at risk of vomiting). Throw away used tissue as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene.5. Avoid touching the person's bodily fluids6. Practice hand hygiene after the person has left7. Staff in charge of facility cleaning should clean and disinfect the surfaces in spaces where the ill person's body fluids may have touched while they were ill. <p>Some students may come to school sick or may not be able to be picked up immediately (for many reasons, lack of childcare etc). Following the steps outlined above helps to ensure there is not a significant risk of illness to others, including those who are supporting them while ill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● stay home if you feel unwell, and until you are well enough to participate in regular activities
<p><u>Illness and Self Check Policies:</u></p>	<p>Notes from doctors/health care providers are not required to return to work/school</p> <p>Staff and students who contract Covid-19 or another communicable disease should follow the advice of their health care provider and PHO (Public Health Officer-811).</p>
<p><u>Staying home. Self-Isolation and Symptoms:</u></p>	<p>All previous protocols are still in place.</p> <p>Stay home when sick. If sick, call 811 for guidance on what to do next. If you do not have Covid-19, return to work/school once symptoms subside and you can do all regular activities. If you are advised to get tested for Covid-19, you must stay home until you get your results back. If negative, follow the above. If positive, follow the advice of the public health authority (PHO).</p> <p>If a member of your family shows symptoms of sickness, you can still come to school as long as you are not showing symptoms. If a member</p>

	<p>of your household tests positive for Covid-19, PHO will advise you on self-isolation and when you may return to school/work.</p>
<p><u>Travel:</u></p>	<p>Self-isolation is recommended for people for many different reasons. Some reasons may include:</p> <p>Having a current COVID-19 diagnosis Having symptoms and/or waiting for COVID-19 test results Being a close contact to a person with COVID-19 Returning from travel from outside Canada Anyone , not vaccinated, must wear a well-fitted mask for 14 days and keep track of all places and people they come into contact with.</p> <p>For 14 days following entry into Canada, you and any children who travelled with you must:</p> <p>properly wear a well-constructed and well-fitting mask when in public spaces, both indoors and outdoors maintain a list of all close contacts and locations you visit keep copies of your proof of vaccination Some federal rules after entering Canada are different from the provincial or territorial rules. In this case, you must follow the stricter rules.</p> <p>For those who are vaccinated, you may return to normal activities after arrival back in Canada.</p> <p>Monitor for symptoms for 14 days after your arrival.</p>
<p><u>Hand Hygiene:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Everyone in the school will continue to practice proper hand hygiene- sanitizing and/or hand wash stations are located in every room, entrance/exit <p>Antibacterial soap is not required for Covid-19. Plain soap and water (temperature does not change the effectiveness of washing hands with plain soap and water) for at least 20 seconds to wash hands. Staff who teach younger children should assist students with hand hygiene as needed. If hands are visibly soiled, please make sure to use soap and water to clean them as alcohol-based hand sanitizer may not be effective at eliminating microbes.</p>
<p><u>When should students perform hand hygiene:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Before and after the bus(if applicable) ● When arriving at school ● Before any breaks ● Before and after eating/drinking ● Before and after using indoor learning spaces that are common areas ● After using the toilet

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After sneezing or coughing into hands (proper etiquette should be modelled and used) • Whenever hands are visibly dirty
<p><u>When should staff perform hand hygiene:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When they arrive to school • Before and after any breaks • Before and after eating/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 bodily fluids • After cleaning tasks • After removing gloves • After handling garbage • Whenever hands are visibly dirty

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	
<p><u>Masks:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks are no longer required in a K-12 setting by staff, students or visitors. Masks are a personal choice and no longer mandated. Schools must continue to use a trauma informed approach when managing these changes to COVID-19 protocols/restrictions
<p><u>K-12 students:</u></p>	<p>All students grades K-12 are no longer required to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses, it is personal choice if they decide to wear one.</p> <p>While schools and school districts will still have non-medical masks available for staff and students, including anyone who becomes sick while at school, they are not mandated and are a matter of personal choice.</p> <p>Masks should not reduce or replace other more effective infection prevention exposure control measures in schools, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily health checks should still be performed at home for both staff and students (the school is not responsible to check students, parents are). If anyone has symptoms of illness, they should remain home and/or seek advice from PHO for isolating (see above <u>Illness and Self Check Policies, Staying home, Self-Isolation and Symptoms</u> for more information) • Daily cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces • Frequent hand hygiene

	<p>These measures provide multiple layers of protection to reduce the risk of transmission.</p>
<p><u>Visitors:</u></p>	<p>Visitors no longer have to wear masks, it is a matter of personal choice. All mask wearing is subject to changes as per any regional or provincial public health recommendations or orders.</p> <p>Schools must not require a health-care provider's note (eg: doctors note) to confirm if staff, students or visitors cannot wear a mask. No student should be prevented from attending or fully participating at school if they do not wear a mask.</p> <p>Face-shields are not to be worn in place of a non-medical mask.</p> <p>Students and staff should be supported to know how to properly put on, wear, take off and store non-medical masks and other face coverings. Related information is available on the BCCDC website and Government of Canada website.</p> <p>Medical-grade masks are not required within school settings for general use.</p>
<p><u>Emergency and Evacuation Drills:</u></p>	<p>Various emergency procedures must be continued, including six school fire evacuation drills per year. (BC Fire Code 2.8.3.2.), lock down and earthquake drills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff should be notified in advance of emergency and evacuation drills ● BC Fire Code requires “total evacuation drills” involving all occupants in the building. Partial evacuation drills do not comply with fire drill requirements. ● Annual reviews to reflect any changes to procedures for fire drills are required at least annually (such as pandemic related protocols).Where necessary, these emergency procedures should reflect any and all modifications to adhere to communicable disease plans ● In an actual emergency, procedure modifications may be suspended to ensure a timely, effective and safe response. <p><u>Communication/Training/Orientation:</u></p> <p>Continued and consistent communication of all guidance, recommendations and Orders from regional Medical Health Officers and (PHO) Provincial Health Officers, including but not limited to COVID-19 protocols, will be conveyed to staff and students/parents (via website and other communication methods) as they arise. All new staff, itinerant staff, TTOC’s and visitors will be notified of ongoing and changing health protocols as they become apparent.</p>

