



INTRODUCTION

Boundary Bay Montessori School will follow the advice of public health to determine our communicable disease prevention plan. The [BCCDC notes](#) that schools continue to be low-risk sites for COVID-19 transmission. BBMS Communicable Disease Prevention Plan focuses on reducing the risk of transmission of communicable diseases, including COVID.

The Communicable Disease Prevention Plan will be updated when temporary additional measures are required to reflect any new information from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Childcare, and WorkSafeBC.

This document was created/updated based on:

- [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 School Settings](#) (August 25, 2022)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control | Ministry of Health Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) (August 25, 2022)
- [Supporting Child Wellness: Public Health Guidance for Communicable Disease \(including COVID-19\) Management in Child Care Settings](#) (August 25, 2022)
- [Daily Health Check](#) (January 2022)

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION GUIDANCE

Supportive School Environments

- **BBMS** will model personal practices (e.g., hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette), and assist younger students as needed
- **BBMS** will share reliable information, including that from the BC Centre for Disease Control, Office of the Provincial Health Officer, and local health authorities with parents, families and caregivers.
- **BBMS** will ensure individual choices for personal practices (e.g., choosing to wear a mask or face covering) are supported and treated with respect, recognizing varying personal comfort level.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

Health & Hygiene practices

- Parents are aware of the K-12 Health Check app that can be accessed for this purpose. A link to the app is provided on our website.
- Staff are required to assess their own health before arrival at school
- Staff & students have all been instructed on protocols for hand washing, sneezing & coughing.
- Students will be washing their hands upon entering the school and during the day when transitioning from outside & before lunch.
- High touch areas in the school will be cleaned & disinfected mid-day.
- Daily custodial practices will be very thorough covering cleaning & disinfecting with products recognized by Health Canada.
- HEPA Air Purifiers are used in each classroom and doors & windows can be opened for ventilation.
- H/VAC system is maintained and a new filter has been put in place

Visitors/Parents

- Open access to the school will resume for purposes of classroom tours, observation, conferences, parent education and volunteer activities.
- Masks are available to adults & children in the school, however personal preference will be honoured when choosing to wear a mask.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Masks will be available to all students. The wearing of a mask is a personal choice.

ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

- A Plexiglas sneeze guard is installed around the office
- Posters are in washrooms and shared spaces as a visual reminder to follow health & safety protocols
- Protocols specific to PHE and Music. Music equipment is sanitized after use. Students are asked to wash their hands after taking part in any outside activities.

PERSONAL MEASURES

- Stay home when ill
- Practice Respiratory Etiquette & Personal Hand Hygiene
- Complete a health screening check DAILY

Health Awareness

Staff, parents, caregivers, students and visitors should not come to school if they are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities. The importance of everyone doing a health check remains in place. A health check means a person regularly checking before coming to school to ensure they (or their child) are not experiencing symptoms of illness (including but not limited to [COVID-19 symptoms](#)) that would limit their ability to participate fully in regular activities. A daily check helps prevent the spread of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, within the school setting.

What To Do When Sick

Staff, students, or other persons in the school setting who are exhibiting symptoms of illness, such as [COVID-19 or gastrointestinal illness](#), should stay home until they are well enough to participate in regular activities. Staff, children, or other persons can attend school if their symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies) or symptoms have improved enough to where one feels well enough to return to regular activities and any fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g., acetaminophen, ibuprofen). The [When to Get Tested for COVID-19 resource](#) or the [B.C. Self-Assessment Tool](#) provides more information on whether you should get a test for COVID-19. If you are unsure or concerned about your symptoms, connect with your health care provider, or call 8-1-1.

Staff, children, or other persons in the school setting who **test positive for COVID-19** are to follow the guidance on the [BCCDC website](#) as to how long they should self-isolate. They can return to school when they no longer need to self-isolate as long as symptoms have improved, and they are well enough to participate in regular activities. Schools do NOT require a health care provider note (i.e., a doctor's note) to confirm the health status of any individual, beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual practice.

If a **staff member, student, or other person** develops symptoms of illness at school and is unable to participate in regular activities, they will be supported to go home until their symptoms have improved.

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

International Travel Requirements Following Return to Canada

Staff, students, and families are responsible for understanding and adhering to all COVID-19 international travel requirements outlined by the Government of Canada, including those required following return to Canada. Full details on requirement for travelers are available on the [Travel to Canada: Requirements for COVID-19 vaccinated travelers](#).

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Most communicable diseases experienced by students and staff within school settings may be managed by the individual/family and through routine preventative measures, such as staying home from school until well enough to participate in regular activities.

Public health may become directly involved if certain reportable diseases, such as measles, are identified where there are effective interventions available to prevent further spread and protect against severe disease. Additional time-limited public health measures may also be implemented at the discretion of the local Medical Health Officer or the Provincial Health Officer in response to broader risk of communicable disease transmission in the community.

Head of School will contact public health if they have concerns about communicable disease transmission within the school setting and require additional support.

Functional Closures

A functional closure of a school is the temporary closure of a school determined by the Head of School due to a lack of staff to provide the required level of teaching, supervision, support, and/or custodial to ensure the health and safety of students.

Public Health Closure

A public health closure is the temporary closing of a school ordered by a Medical Health Officer when they determine it is necessary to prevent the excessive transmission of a communicable disease.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS AND STAFF

- Learn more about [COVID-19 stress](#) and [managing anxiety](#)
- Access [virtual mental health supports](#)
- Call 310Mental Health Support at [310-6789](#) for mental health information, resources, and emotional support
- Youth and adults 15+ can [sign up for the BounceBack program](#) to learn to manage mental health and well-being
- BCCDC has information on [mental well-being during COVID-19](#)
- The First Nation Health Authority provides information on [mental health and cultural supports during COVID-19 \(PDF, 77KB\)](#) and [stories from youth about COVID-19](#)

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