

Central Okanagan Public Schools Communicable Disease Plan Q&A

Q. What are the recent changes?

A. See below:

- The Ministry of Education has updated the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#). That document is the foundational document to our own district Communicable Disease Plan and related site procedure – found on this [page](#).
- The district Plan and related site procedure have been reviewed/updated.

Q. Are masks required anywhere?

A. Masks are not required. Decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice. A person's choice is to be supported and respected. Non-medical masks are available for those who have forgotten theirs but would like to wear one, or who become ill at school.

Q. If a staff/student is diagnosed with COVID-19, how long before they return to work/school?

A. As per the BCCDC, *people with symptoms who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home until their fever has resolved and they feel well enough to participate in regular activities* .

If you are unsure or concerned, consider contacting with your health care provider, calling 8-1-1, or going to an Urgent and Primary Health Care Centre to be assessed.

Q. Is Public Health doing contact tracing?

A. [As per the BCCDC](#), close contacts are not required to self-isolate or take any special measures. Therefore, contact tracing is of limited value except for high-priority settings (e.g. Long term care facilities). SD23 facilities are not considered high-priority settings.

Q. Will schools (including staff and students) be notified if there is an exposure at school?

A. No. Schools will only be notified in the event of an official outbreak being declared by Public Health. See this [BCCDC page on Close Contacts and contact tracing](#) for more information. If a parent/guardian calls indicating their child is diagnosed with COVID-19, schools are not required to provide a list of names as to that student's contacts while at school.

Q. What is required when a staff/student is diagnosed with COVID-19?

A. Stay home and away from others until your fever is gone and you feel well enough to participate in daily activities. Staff diagnosed with COVID-19 are **not** required to contact all their school related contacts. See this [BCCDC If You Have COVID-19 document](#) for more information.

Q. What do staff and students do if they are informed they are close contacts with someone who was recently diagnosed with COVID-19?

A. You are not required to self-isolate, and you can continue to participate in routine activities, such as work or school, as long as you do not have any symptoms. If you are not showing any [symptoms of COVID-19](#), you do not need to be tested, unless you are asked to by Public Health. See this BCCDC [Instructions for close contacts](#) resource for more information.

Q. Are there any travel related restrictions.

A. At this time there are no travel restrictions, however that can change any time. Prior to any travel check this [COVID-19: Travel, testing and borders page](#) for updated information.

Health Canada can be contacted at 1-833-784-4397.

Q. Are there any restrictions on athletic events or other gatherings/events?

A. No.

Q. Site Communicable Disease Plan?

A. Each school/site must maintain its Site Communicable Disease Procedure. That procedure must be reviewed at least annually and done in consultation with the site JOHSC - based on the District's Communicable Disease Plan. Both templates can be found on this [page](#). Post the site plan at/near the front office reception, on the JOHSC board, and on school website.

Staff must be orientated to both the District's plan as well as their school/site's plan. If visiting another site you must orientate yourself with that site's plan before entering the site.

Q. Visitor entry requirements?

A. Staff, students, and visitors perform a [Daily Health Check](#). Ensure Daily Health Check document is posted at reception and on school website. All district sites/schools should maintain a [SD23 Visitor's/Employee's Sign-In Booklet](#) at or near the front office. All visitor's (including visiting staff) should sign that booklet and review the site-based H&S information documented in that booklet.

Q. Is Physical Distancing required?

A. No. Staff and students should be encouraged to respect others' personal space (the distance from which a person feels comfortable being next to another person).

Q. Cleaning and Disinfection?

A. Cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces should occur at least once in a 24-hour period and when visibly dirty. Building occupants are expected to hand wash/sanitize often.

Q. Food Restrictions?

A. Food delivery both curricular and non-curricular as per normal delivery model.

There is no prohibition on **homemade food**. While homemade food is not recommended by H&S, school administration/site management can decide whether homemade food is permissible at their own school/facility. Where homemade is permitted, school admin/management must ensure its use is also consistent with the [Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools](#) and [Admin Procedure 'Food Services in Schools' \(Public\)](#).

Q. Hand sanitizing?

A. No change. Continue with frequent handwashing/sanitizing.

Q. Sneeze/cough etiquette?

A. No change. Continue with sneeze/cough etiquette.

Q. Classroom seating plans required?

A. As per pre-pandemic requirements. No additional requirements related to public health.

Q. How will I know if there are local or regional recommendations or Orders?

A. If a local or regional recommendation or Order is in place that impacts the school district the recommendation or Order will be added to Appendix 7 of the Communicable Disease Plan, and communicated out to all school administrators/management by district H&S.

RESOURCES:

[Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)

[Public Health Communicable Diseases Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

[BCCDC: What to do if you have COVID-19 symptoms](#)

[BCCDC: COVID-19 Instructions for close contacts](#)

[BCCDC: Close contacts and contact tracing](#)

[Fed Govt COVID-19: Travel, testing and borders](#)

[Deputy Minister's Bulletins](#)