



OLGC School Covid-19 Communicable Disease Prevention Plan September 2021

***Masks K to 12 update added**

Based on guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control and experience to date within B.C. and other jurisdictions showing schools as low-risk sites for COVID-19 transmission, even with increased risk of COVID-19 in some communities, K-12 students can participate in **full-time, in-class instruction** in accordance with current public health guidelines for schools.

Further to the Provincial Health Officer statement on June 17, 2021, employers are no longer required to maintain a COVID-19 Safety Plan but must instead transition to Communicable Disease Prevention Plan. Communicable disease prevention focuses on reducing the risk of workplace transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, and includes both ongoing measures (e.g. hand hygiene, cleaning) and additional measures to be implemented as advised by public health.

This plan outlines the current prevention measures in place at OLGC School to reduce the risk of communicable diseases, including COVID-19. As already stated Schools continue to be considered low-risk settings for COVID-19 transmission, particularly in the context of a highly immunized (vaccinated) population. School exposures are more likely in communities with lower vaccination uptake/greater community risk and as such **all** those who are eligible to be vaccinated are encouraged to do so.

With greater community protection against COVID-19, schools are returning to closer-to-normal operations, with some prevention measures continuing to be in place to keep schools as lower risk settings for communicable disease transmission. While COVID-19 is present in our communities, there will continue to be COVID-19 exposures in schools and cases amongst students and staff. Because cases in schools reflect those in the community, these are more likely to occur in communities with lower vaccination uptake. However, with most people 12 and older immunized and effective prevention measures in place, exposures are less likely to lead to further transmission. Local public health officials (school medical health officers) consistently monitor cases of COVID-19 in schools and the community and will continue to offer support and guidance. Local Medical Health Officers may recommend regional prevention measures during times of increased community risk.

OLGC School will regularly review this communicable disease plan, with the OLGC School Joint Health and Safety Committees/PEC and address areas where there are identified gaps in implementation. BCCDC has developed a COVID-19 School Communicable Disease Checklist that will be used to support these communicable disease plan reviews.

Medical Health Officers continue to be able to place local Public Health Orders requiring additional health and safety measures beyond the guidance in this document at their own discretion, based on their authority under provincial legislation. These measures may be put in place during times of increased community transmission of COVID-19, and within communities with low vaccination uptake, based on local epidemiology and in proportion to the risk. Local Public Health Orders may be placed for entire regions or communities, including but not limited to schools (unless schools are specifically exempted), or for specific settings or activities within a health authority region. For schools, the local Medical Health Officer may issue a recommendation for an individual school, a grouping of schools, a school district, all schools within the health authority region, or some combination thereof, to implement specific additional health and safety measures during times of elevated risk. Additional regional measures are likely to be similar to some of those in place during the 2020-21 school year, and may include:

- limits on gatherings and events;
- reconfiguring room arrangements or incorporating more activities that maximize space between people and reduce face-to-face contact;
- limiting visitors;
- recommending increased mask use.

Learning groups are not expected to be an additional prevention measure for regional recommendations.

Supportive School Environment

OLGC School encourages students to practice personal preventive measures like wearing a non-medical mask when recommended, regularly practicing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, and having students respect others personal space. Personal space is the distance from which a person feels comfortable being next to another person.

Staff and students choosing to practice additional personal prevention measures (e.g., wearing a non-medical mask beyond when it is recommended, wearing a face shield in addition to a non-medical mask, etc.) should be treated with respect. OLGC School will support student's personal preventive measures by:

- Staff modeling these behaviours
- Sharing information from BCCDC, and PHO with parents and families
- Use of signage

Staff will utilize positive and inclusive approaches to engage students in preventative practices.

Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures (Prevention Measures)

Last year a number of preventative measures were established and have been revised for the 2021-2022 school year in response to recent communications from the Ministry of Education and Health Authorities. The updated Hierarchy for Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Disease measures will be used to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in schools and include in order: 1. Public Health Measures, 2. Environmental Measures, 3. Administrative Measures, 4. Personal Measures and 5. Personal Protection Equipment. By implementing a combination of measures at each level, the risk of COVID-19 is substantially reduced. Control measures in place already will continue and will be reinforced via staff memo Monday's and in community e-Newsletter send outs Wednesday's.

Infection prevention and exposure control measures (prevention measures) help create low-risk environments by reducing the spread of communicable diseases like COVID-19. These are more effective in controlled environments, like schools, where multiple measures of various effectiveness can be routinely and consistently implemented.

1. Public Health Measures

Vaccines

OLGC School encourages all who are eligible to get vaccinated. Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools as being fully vaccinated (i.e., receive 2 doses) against COVID-19 protects the individual and those around them – including those who are not eligible to be vaccinated. Both doses are needed to get the most effective protection against serious cases of COVID-19 and provide longer-lasting protection.

The vaccines used in B.C. are highly effective against COVID-19, including among variants of concern. Vaccinated people aged 12 and older tend to have milder illness if they get infected and are also less likely spread COVID-19 than unvaccinated people 12 and older. While children under 12 are not currently eligible to be vaccinated, they continue to be less likely to get and spread COVID-19 and have a low risk of serious outcomes if they do get COVID-19. It is strongly recommended that adults interacting with children under 12 be fully vaccinated.

While COVID-19 is present in our communities, there will continue to be COVID-19 exposures in schools and cases amongst students and staff. However, with people 12 and older highly immunized, exposures are unlikely to lead to further transmission. Public health considers vaccination status when investigating school exposures. Staff and students who are not at least 14 days past receiving their second dose (i.e., aren't fully immunized) and are identified as close contacts are more likely to be asked to self-isolate.

OLGC School will share evidence-based information and promote opportunities to be vaccinated in partnership with public health as information is communicated.

Public Health Case Management

OLGC School will continue to follow Public health (including the Provincial Health Officer and BC Centre for Disease Control) guidance regarding individual and community recommendations to manage the risk of COVID-19 in B.C. OLGC School will take direction from public health who monitor cases of COVID-19 and determine if actions should be taken to prevent or control spread. As well, we will sharing public health information with staff, students, and families, including providing direction on if and when exposure notifications should be sent.

OLGC School will continue to maintain daily attendance records for staff, students, and visitors (including itinerant staff, teachers on call, parents/caregivers, and volunteers), and keep accurate class and bus lists to assist with contact tracing if necessary. This includes maintaining attendance records for all school-supported activities, including extracurricular activities and field trips. Daily attendance records will be kept for at least 45 days to assist with contact tracing and retrospective analysis by public health (if needed).

School Exposure & Notifications

An exposure occurs if a person attends school when they may have been potentially infectious with a communicable disease (e.g. COVID-19) and there is a risk of transmission to others. When a potential exposure at a school is identified, public health will work with the OLGC School to understand who may have been exposed and determine what actions should be taken, including identifying if other students or staff members have been exposed.

Public health considers vaccination status when investigating school exposures. Staff and students who are not fully immunized and are identified as close contacts are more likely to be asked to self-isolate than those who are fully immunized.

To ensure personal privacy rights are maintained, public health will only disclose a confirmed case of a communicable disease if the person was infectious when they attended school. Public health will only provide the personal information needed to support effective contact tracing.

Public health expects to transition to notification practices that ensure those who are potentially at risk for communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, due to an exposure at school (e.g., those who are close contacts) are directly notified and informed of what subsequent actions they should take (e.g., monitor for symptoms, self-isolate, seek testing, etc.). OLGC School will provide notifications only if directed to do so by the school medical officer.

Outbreak & Clusters

A cluster refers to two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 that occur among students and/or staff within a 14-day period, and isolated transmission is suspected or confirmed to have occurred within the school.

An outbreak is when there is sustained, uncontrolled, widespread transmission of COVID-19 within a school, and a Medical Health Officer determines extraordinary public health measures are necessary to stop further transmission in the school or school community.

If a cluster or outbreak occurs at OLGC School, additional measures may be recommended or required by a Medical Health Officer to prevent further transmission of a communicable disease. This may include implementing additional health and safety measures within the school, testing of all potentially exposed individuals or in rare cases, ordering the school to close for a certain amount of time.

Regional Differences and Local Public Health Orders and Recommendations

Medical Health Officers continue to be able to place local public health Orders requiring additional health and safety measures beyond this guidance at their own discretion, based on their authority under provincial legislation. These may be put in place during times of increased community transmission of COVID-19, and within communities with low vaccination uptake. They are based on local epidemiology and are proportional to risk.

Local public health Orders may be placed for whole regions or communities, or for specific businesses or activities within a health authority region. For example, a health authority may issue a regional Gatherings & Events Order that limits indoor gatherings to a specific number of people or to a specific type of activity. Schools within that region would need to ensure extracurricular and social gatherings and events complied with the Order unless schools were specifically excluded.

For schools, the local Medical Health Officer may issue a recommendation for an individual school, a grouping of schools, a school district, for all schools within a health authority region, or some combination thereof, to implement so specific additional health and safety measures during times of elevated risk.

OLGC School will respond as advised to do so by those in authority to do so.

School Communicable Disease Checklist

OLGC School has completed the Communicable Disease Checklist in creating our Communicable Disease Prevention plan.

2.Environmental Measures

Ventilation & Air Exchange

At OLGC School doors and windows are kept open as much as is safety to do so.

Our school 's mechanical heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are designed, operated, and maintained as per standards and specifications for ongoing comfort of workers and maintained so they working properly. Our school windows and doors will remain open as weather permits, if it doesn't impact the functioning of ventilation

systems. Our main school is not air conditioned and to allow air flow windows and doors school stay open as it is safe to do so.

When using air conditioners and 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. Our main building classrooms have ceiling fans to circulate the air. Use of portable air conditioners and fans in unventilated spaces with doors and windows will be avoided, except when necessary during high or excessive heat events.

Our Communicable disease prevention measures will be balanced against other risks, like excessive heat events in warmer months or poor air quality from wildfire smoke.

While taking students outside more often is no longer recommended for COVID-19 prevention, it is still encouraged due to its overall health benefits and in good weather this will be continued at OLG School.

Emergency and Evacuation Drills

Schools should continue to practice various emergency procedures, including six school fire evacuation drills required annually by BC Fire Code 2.8.3.2, lockdown drills, etc.

- Staff should be notified in advance of emergency/evacuation drills.
- Full evacuations are required to comply with the fire drill requirements of BC Fire Code 2.8.3.2.
- Schools must continue to review their fire safety plans on a minimum annual basis, as per the BC Fire as pandemic-related protocols). Changes to school fire safety plans, including fire drill procedures, should be developed in cooperation with the local fire department.
- Emergency procedures may require modification to adhere to communicable disease plans (e.g. designating additional muster locations to reduce crowding where required, making efforts to minimize involuntary physical contact between participants, etc.). Schools may also need to consult with their local medical health officer for guidance on current public health Orders, which may affect site specific emergency and evacuation procedures.

In the event of an actual emergency, procedure modifications may be suspended to ensure for a timely, efficient and safe response.

OLGC School regularly practices Fire Drills and other emergency situations.

Cleaning and Disinfection

OLGC School is cleaned once every 24 hours and will be increased if need be.

Frequently-touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day and when visibly dirty. These include items touched by larger numbers of people (e.g., door handles, hand rails, tap faucets, shared gym equipment, etc.).

Garbage containers will be emptied daily.

This work continues to be performed by Master Care janitors. OLG staff will assist as needed.

Surfaces touched by fewer people (e.g., desks used by a few students, lockers, manipulatives) should be cleaned at least 1x/day. Other general cleaning should occur in line with regular practices.

Objects made of materials that are not easily cleaned (e.g., foam, play dough, etc.) or typically cleaned intermittently (e.g., fabrics, soft toys, etc.) can continue to be used. They will be according to regular practices.

Textbooks, paper, other paper-based products, laminated or glossy paper-based products and items with plastic covers do not need to be cleaned and disinfected, or quarantined for any period of time.

Frequently touched surfaces continued:

- Items used by larger numbers of students and staff, including doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, water fountains, faucet handles, toilet handles.
- Limiting access to water fountains is no longer recommended. Hand hygiene should be practiced before and after use.
- School communicable disease plans should not include restricting access to water, washrooms or other spaces that support student learning and well-being (e.g. gymnasiums, libraries, support rooms, etc.). Schools should return to full operation of all spaces in alignment with the protocols outlined in this document.

Washroom access will continue to be used via the established washroom pass system in place.

- Shared equipment (e.g. computer keyboards and tablets, glassware and testing equipment for science labs, kitchen

equipment for culinary programs, sewing machines and sewing equipment for home economic programs, PE/sports equipment, music equipment, etc.)

- Appliances (staff and students can share the use of appliances and other objects, but treat items like microwaves, refrigerators, coffee pots, photocopiers or laminators as frequently touched surfaces)
- Service counters (e.g., office service window, library circulation desk)
 - Frequently-touched items like toys or manipulatives that may not be able to be cleaned often (e.g. fabrics) or at all (e.g. sand, foam, play dough, etc.) can be used, if hand hygiene is practiced before and after use.
 - Carpets and rugs (e.g. in Kindergarten and Strong Start classes) can also be used.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING BODILY FLUIDS

Follow these procedures, in conjunction with school/district policies, when cleaning and disinfecting bodily fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine):

- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning blood or body fluids.
- Wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves.
- Follow regular health and safety procedure and regularly used PPE (e.g., gloves, Kevlar sleeves) for blood and bodily fluids (e.g. toileting, spitting, biting).

LAUNDRY

OLGC School has a washer/dryer in our K/1 portable classroom space and is used sometimes.

Follow these procedures when doing laundry:

- Laundry should be placed in a laundry basket with a plastic liner.
- Do not shake dirty items
- Wearing gloves is optional. If choosing to wear gloves, ensure hand hygiene is performed before and after use. No other PPE is required.
- Clean hands with soap and water immediately after removing gloves.
 - Wash with regular laundry soap and hot water (60-90°C).

Physical Barriers

Physical barriers are no longer recommended for communicable disease prevention and will cease being used at student desks. They may be used at personal discretion of individual staff if they deem the need to do so.

3. Administrative Measures

Gatherings & Events

School extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including those occurring within and between schools) will occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders. The local Fraser Valley zone under the direction of the Elementary Athletic Commission has recommended that **no spectators will be permitted for indoor extracurricular and interschool competitions at this time** within our zone. For those able to drive to events off our OLGC School site, we ask that you adhere to carpooling guidelines – all in a vehicle wear a mask. If you could please transport our student athletes and wait in your car or return for pick up when an event is over it would be greatly appreciated.

Gatherings and events requiring international travel (e.g., between Canada and the United States) will occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, Provincial, and Federal public health recommendations and Orders for international travel and community gatherings and events.

Space Arrangement

In learning environments, schools can return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches. Use all available space. Cohorts/learning groups are no longer recommended. They are also not expected to be an additional prevention measure for regional recommendations.

Although public health no longer recommends learning groups and physical distancing of 2M as communicable disease

measures for the K-12 setting, there are a number of strategies that OLG School will use to create space between people and to support students and staff in returning to school using a trauma-informed approach:

- students and staff are reminded to respect others personal space. And will model as necessary.
- if room size allows people will be spread people out, in learning environments and for gatherings and events.
- Implement strategies that prevent crowding at pick-up and drop-off times.
 - focus on entry and exit areas, and other places where people may gather or crowd.

In indoor spaces, people should have enough room to carry out the intended activity without involuntarily physical contact with another person. In indoor common spaces (e.g., hallways, cafeterias, etc.), schools may continue to use floor markings and posters to direct traffic flow. OLG School will continue to use staggered entry and dismissal times, recess and lunch breaks to enable this to occur as is reasonably possible.

For indoor activities that bring together multiple classes or other groupings of students in close proximity for a prolonged period of time (e.g., school assemblies, multiple classes doing physical activity in a gym), OLG School will ensure that people are spread out within the available space. This is expected to be achievable within room capacity limits (where applicable). To start we will hold off on larger school events as directed by the local Fraser Valley health officer Dr. Zbar with the exception of our weekly Friday 9:00 a.m. Mass where we are able to adequately space out students in the large OLG Parish Church.

Staff meetings and school assemblies need not follow current PHO Gathering and Events Order restrictions on indoor organized gatherings (50 people or 50% capacity, whichever is greater) if workers are engaged in work activities (including staff meetings) or to students and teachers at school engaged in educational activities. In-person staff meetings and school assemblies can proceed within room occupancy limits (where applicable) and using available space to spread people out as much as possible. Schools are also reminded to consider student and staff comfort levels and what is happening in the community when planning these activities and to explore virtual or smaller gatherings where appropriate. Staff and students in grades 4 and above are required to wear masks indoors.

The PHO Gathering and Events Order (50 people or 50% capacity, whichever is greater) does apply to social events at schools such as parties, celebrations and performances these will be slowly introduced at OLG School once back to school COVID numbers are known.

To start in September, strategies that prevent crowding will be used at drop off and pick up times with families with last names A to M dropping off students at 8:45 am and pick up at 2:45 p.m. and families with last names N to Z dropping off students at 8:50 am and picking up at 2:50 p.m. There will be no use of playground equipment before or after school and will use will occur at set recess and lunch times only where hand hygiene protocols can be ensured.

- recess/lunch times will be staggered and set play areas assigned as previous year to provide a greater amount of space for everyone.
- Students will be taken outside more often, where and when possible.
- Staff and student flow will be managed to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.
- Use floor markings and posters to address traffic flow throughout the school. This may include one-way hallways and designated entrance and exit doors. It is important not to reduce the number of exits and ensure the fire code is adhered to.

Arrival Time and Procedure (expanded on later in this document)

- K/1 staff will enter the K/1 portable and communicate with the office when they have arrived, have self-checked and are healthy. All other staff will enter the building via the main front doors of the school and sign at the office that they have self-checked and are healthy and will sign their daily health form.
- Student drop-off and pick-up times will be continue to be staggered via alphabetical family names to avoid the gathering of large crowds. Students with last names A-M will gain access at 8:45 a.m. and students with last names N-Z will gain access at 8:50 a.m. If students arrive earlier than their scheduled time they are to remain in the in their parents/guardians car until a parent supervisor arrives to ensure personal space along the south gate entrance and fence line. The playground is closed before and after school as we do not want students and parents congregating in groups. Playground use will be occur during the school day hours under staff supervision.
- **All parents are to use the parking lots on the OLG property to drop off their child and walk their child to the South Gate Entrance check point (DBYC side) for a quick screening and entry as this should already be done at home by parent/guardians. This will be quicker than last year and is done with the purpose of having students practicing hand sanitation and building access.** Please practice personal space while awaiting entry by lining up along the south fence. It is important that students arrive at their access time so that full instructional time and Morning Prayer can begin promptly. Morning Mass attendees and OLG Preschool users will be using the parking lot as well and have separate entrances.
- **Be patient, calm and kind during drop off and watch for moving pedestrians and cars.**

- K,1,2,3,4,5,6, and 7 students will enter the school via their designated entry and exit door designated here. Students in K and 1 use their respective entrance doors, Grades 2 and 3 use the school’s main entrance doors, Grades 4 and 5 use the upstairs backfield entrance and Grades 6 and 7 will enter the upstairs entrance beside their respective classrooms.
- Students will wash/sanitize hands upon entry to the school property.

Dismissal Time and Procedure

- Students will be dismissed via alphabetical family groupings starting at 2:45 p.m. and 2:50 p.m. Students in K and 1 will use their respective exit doors, Grades 2 and 3 use the school’s main exit doors, Grades 4 and 5 exit via the upstairs backfield exit and Grades 6 and 7 will exit via the upstairs exit beside their respective classrooms. Once outside students will line up in their Grade level while not crowding. A staff member will oversee this process with aid of parent supervisors. Students that end the day with PE will need to be picked up outside the DBYC entrance/exit.
- **Parents are to arrive punctually to pick up their children afterschool.**
- **Be patient, calm and kind during drop off and watch for moving pedestrians and cars.**
- **Children are not to play after school on school property and are to go straight home unless they are part of our OLGC extracurricular programs. Siblings must leave the school property and not wait around for sibling sports to end. We will develop spectator guidelines as the year progresses for spectators as per CISVA EAC Guidelines.**

For breaks and other unstructured time in indoor settings, there should be enough space available to prevent involuntary physical contact. See plan in place below:

Recess and Lunch (staggered and set areas of play)

Although cohorts are no longer being used we will continue to rotate through the vast outside areas at OLGC School (See Schedule below). Students will be reminded of personal space and to and will wash/sanitize their hands before and after they play outside. If able to, students will wear masks. For indoor recess and lunch, students will stay in their classrooms while remaining at their desks with masks on.

	West Big Toy / Swings	East Big Toy / Hoops	Gravel Field	Prayer Garden	Black Top 1	Black Top 2	Back Field 1	Back Field 2
Monday	K	Grade 1	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 6	Grade 7
Tuesday	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 6	Grade 7	K	Grade 1	Grade 4	Grade 5
Wednesday	Grade 4	Grade 5	K	Grade 1	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 2	Grade 3
Thursday	Grade 1	K	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 3	Grade 2	Grade 7	Grade 6
Friday	K	Grade 1	Grade 3	Grade 2	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4

Areas: Back Field, OLGC Prayer Garden Gravel field Black Top, Big Toy Playground (Play spaces rotated daily)	Recess Time
Grades K, 1 (use own doors)	10:12 - 10:27
Grades 2 and 3 (Alternate exiting)	10:13 - 10:28
Grades 4, and 5 (Alternate exiting)	10:14 - 10:29
Grades 6 and 7 (Alternate exiting)	10:15-10:30

Areas: Back Field, OLGC Prayer Garden Gravel field Black Top, Big Toy Playground (Play spaces rotated daily)	Lunch Time (PlayTime)
Grades K and 1 (use own doors)	12:12 - 12:42
Grades 2 and 3 (Alternate exiting)	12:13 - 12:43

Grades 4 and 5 (Alternate exiting)	12:14 - 12:44
Grades 6 and 7 (Alternate exiting)	12:15 -12:45

OLGC Staff will continue to take students outside more often due to its overall health benefits.

Staff-Specific Considerations

WorkSafe BC guidance for workplaces are in place within staff-only spaces within a school (e.g., break rooms, individual offices) or for non-school spaces operated by the CISVA and Archdiocese of Vancouver (e.g. board offices, churches, etc.). Currently we are staying to room limits in staff areas and maintaining reduced use as able.

Staff-only gatherings (e.g., meetings, professional development days, etc.) will occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, Provincial, and Federal public health recommendations and Orders for workplace gatherings and events and any related WorkSafe BC guidance. We will continue to spread out in larger rooms when we meet and use electronic means (Zoom) to conduct larger scale meetings where we are unable to do so.

All staff must wear a non-medical mask when they are at the school.

Visitors

All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are at the school.

OLGC School will continue to ensure visitors follow the school’s communicable disease plan, including completing a daily health check and not entering the school if they are sick. OLGC Schools will keep a list of the date, names, and contact information of all visitors who enter the school for 45 days following their visit.

We will continue to limit those who enter or school buildings and allow access to those who make appointments or have a duty to perform at the school. Namely, before and after school parent supervision duty, work party, etc.

Access to School Site

- **Visitors, including parents, will have limited access to the school and only with a mask on. Parents should not come to the school during the day to drop off lunches, supplies, etc.**
- **If parents/caregivers need to contact OLGC staff they are encouraged to do so by phone or email. In-person visits should be for essential purposes and arranged in advance by appointment.**
- Visitors must be aware of, and follow school protocols, be limited in their access to necessary spaces only, and will be asked to confirm they have completed the requirements of a daily health check before entering the school building.
- Parent supervision and parent work party hours will be permitted with use of personal space and masks and at all possible outside only. Parents will know the OLGC Communicable Disease Prevention Plan and Procedures and perform crosswalk duty and student flow at drop off and pick up. Parents Supervisors need to be ready and on duty for 8:15 a.m. in and should set up sanitization station in front of the K/1 portable building. One parent does the crosswalk while the other watches students in the line-up along the south gate entrance/fence line. We currently do not require lunchtime supervision assistance from parents at this time but this may change as the year progresses. Parent supervisors should arrive at 2: 40 p.m. for 2:45 p.m. dismissal times and remain until 3:15 p.m. to assist OLGC Staff as needed.

School gatherings and events (including inter-school events) can occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders. When these events occur a trauma-informed lens will be considered and will include:

- respecting student and staff comfort levels regarding personal space;
- Masks on as directed by PHO.
- using space available to spread people out as much as possible, respecting room occupancy limits, and ensuring enough space is available to prevent involuntarily physical contact between attendees (i.e. overcrowding); and
- gradual transitions to larger gatherings (e.g. school-wide assemblies), including starting with virtual or smaller in-

person options, shorter in-person sessions, etc.

Communication and Training/Orientation

OLGC Schools clearly and consistently communicates guidance, recommendations and Orders from regional Medical Health Officers and the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), including COVID-19 resources to its staff and community. This is done in a multiple formats for ease of understanding (e.g., visual representation, videos using sign language, etc.).

OLGC School will provide school communications that include evidence-based information, provided by the Provincial Health Officer and BC Centre for Disease Control, to build awareness that the risk of contracting COVID-19 from students is minimal and to help address inaccurate information that might be circulating in the school community.

OLGC School provides COVID-19 safety orientation opportunities for staff prior to students arriving for the first day of school, in consultation with their local staff health & safety representatives.

As per WorkSafeBC guidance, employers need to involve frontline workers, joint health and safety committees, and supervisors in identifying protocols for their workplace. OLGC School ensures they have active Site Committees and Joint Health and Safety Committees that meet regularly, including prior to any transitions between stages, and are included in school planning efforts.

WorkSafeBC recommends that employers ensure the following:

- everyone entering OLGC School, including workers from other employers, have received information on workplace measures, practices and policies at OLGC School
- All workers understand the measures in place at the workplace.
- Supervisors are knowledgeable about the measures, practices, and policies in place, and incorporate these into supervision practices at the workplace.
- Workers know how to raise health and safety concerns.

Curriculum, Programs and Activities (including Extracurricular Activities)

All curriculum, programs and activities should operate in alignment with provincial K-12 health and safety guidelines, including school-led activities held off campus (e.g. sports academies, community-based programs/courses).

OLGC School will continue to implement ongoing communicable disease prevention practices (e.g. cleaning and disinfecting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette) specific to the activity.

Equipment used will continue to be cleaned and disinfected as per Cleaning and Disinfecting guidelines outlined in this document.

Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g. water bottles, instrument mouth pieces) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between use.

Hand hygiene should be practiced before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment and whenever hands are visibly dirty.

Guidelines specific to visitor access during school hours (e.g. guest speakers), will be followed.

For PE and music, OLGC School will continue to implement universal communicable disease prevention practices specific to the activity. See below:

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (PHE)/OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Students are to wear their PE uniform to PE and should wash it regularly.

Spread out students and staff within available space, and encourage outdoor activities and programs, as much as possible.

K-12 staff and students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear masks during PHE/outdoor program classes when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.

Students are not required to wear masks during high-intensity physical activities⁶ (e.g. stationary bike, weightlifting, basketball, soccer); mask use during these activities is left to Staff are encouraged to move high-intensity physical activities outdoors whenever possible.

For low intensity activities (e.g. yoga, walking), students are 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.

Students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment (e.g. before and after a sports game using a shared ball), as well as proper respiratory etiquette.

Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g. water bottles) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses.

MUSIC PROGRAMS

K-12 staff and students in Grades 4 to 12 must wear masks when indoors and a barrier is not present. Masks can be temporarily removed while engaging in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument), but must be worn while singing.

Shared equipment should be cleaned and disinfected and students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after music equipment use.

Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g. instrument mouth pieces) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses.

In the case of any discrepancy in guidance from BC Teacher's Music Coalition, schools and school districts are expected to follow the Ministry of Education guidelines.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES / LEARNING COMMONS

OLGC School Library is open for use by staff and students.

At this time, there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution or sharing/return of books or paper-based educational resources to students because of COVID-19.

- Laminated or glossy paper-based products (e.g. books, magazines, worksheets, etc.) and items with plastic covers (e.g. DVDs) are low risk items. Regular book browsing and circulation processes can occur as normal. There is no need to clean, disinfect or quarantine these items for any period of time.
- The BC Teacher Librarians Association has developed Recommendations for Access to Library Learning Commons Resources to Meet COVID-19 Requirements. In the case of any discrepancy in guidance, schools and school districts are expected to follow the Ministry of Education guidelines.

Supporting Students With Disabilities/Diverse Abilities

EXPECTATIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS

OLGC School has health and safety measures that promote inclusion of students with disabilities/diverse abilities.

Students with disabilities/diverse abilities or medical complexity are not considered at greater risk of experiencing

severe illness from COVID-19. For guidelines specific to children with immune suppression (e.g. students who have had a recent organ transplant, who are receiving chemotherapy, those with an illness impacting their immune system). Parents/caregivers/students who are severely immune compromised are encouraged to contact Mr. Wright to discuss available options for their child (including ensuring appropriate preventative measures are in place for in-class instruction or at home support schooling).

A CISVA Immunocompromised Children in School High Risk Assessment And self- isolation form will need to be filled out prior to approval of school accommodations. This is for very rare cases in the school.

Students who receive support have a developed IEP and this will continue to be updated. Services and supports in place and needed for achieving goals listed in the IEP will continue to be offered.

GUIDELINES FOR STAFF WORKING WITH STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES/DIVERSE ABILITIES WHERE PHYSICAL CONTACT MAY BE REQUIRED

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.

When staff are working with a student indoors, staff are required to wear a non-medical mask, a face covering or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield). Additional personal protective equipment is not required beyond that used as part of the personal care routine normally encountered in their regular course of work (e.g., gloves for toileting).

When working with students where seeing facial expressions and/or lip movement is important, options include having the staff member wear a mask with a transparent section to enable visualization of the mouth available from the Principal.

Students in Grades K to 12 are also required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering when receiving services.

For students in Grades K to 12 students or parent/caregiver should be wearing any PPE when receiving services in close physical proximity.

In addition to a non-medical mask, 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.

ITINERANT STAFF AND SPECIALISTS

OLGC School will continue to use itinerant staff, TOC's and specialists. They will know OLGC procedures while providing services while wearing a non-medical mask, a face covering or a face shield as mandated.

Non-medical masks and face shields available for staff.

PLAYGROUNDS

There is no current evidence of COVID-19 transmission in playground environments. Playgrounds are a safe environment. The following measures should be taken when using playgrounds:

- Ensure appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play
- Attempt to minimize unintentional physical contact between students
- Sand and water can be used for play if children wash their hands before and after play. COVID-19 does not survive well on surfaces, other than hard surfaces. There is no evidence showing that the virus survives on sand, in water or on play dough.

Although cohorts are no longer in effect playground equipment use at OLCG School will use its previously established cycle of property use listed above to allow each grade at recess and lunch time breaks throughout the week

Extracurricular and social gatherings and events (including sports and arts events within and between schools) will occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, Provincial, and Federal public health recommendations and Orders. The CISVA EAC Commission will provide guidance to school on extracurricular sports at key times during the year that will fall in line with PHO directives.

SCHOOL SPORTS

- Intra- and inter-school programs, activities (e.g. intramurals, sports team practices, games), sports academies and events can continue in alignment with the following guidance:
 - Requirements of relevant local, regional and provincial public health recommendations and Orders for community gatherings and events.
 - Masks are worn by K-12 staff, other adults and students in grades 4 to 12 when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.
 - Students are not required to wear masks during high-intensity sport activities (e.g. stationary bike, weightlifting, basketball, soccer). Staff are encouraged to move high-intensity sport activities outdoors whenever possible.
 - For low intensity sport activities (e.g. stretching, golf), students are required to wear masks when they are indoors and a barrier is not present.
 - Use all available space to spread students and staff out as much as possible.
 - Shared equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned and disinfected as per the guidelines.
 - Students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment (e.g. before and after a sports game using a shared ball), as well as proper respiratory etiquette.
 - masks not required during high intensity physical activity

Equipment that touches the mouth (e.g. water bottles) should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses.

- Sport activities should be held outside whenever possible.
- See the Visitor Access/Community Use section for more information on protocols for spectators.
- See the Return to School Sports Plan from BC School Sports for additional information. In the case of any discrepancy in guidance, schools and school districts are expected to follow the Ministry of Education guidelines.

THEATRE, FILM, AND DANCE PROGRAMS

- Spread out students and staff within available space, and encourage outdoor activities and programs, as much as possible.
- K-12 staff are required to wear masks during these programs when they are indoors, and a barrier is not present.
- Students in Grades 4 to 12 are 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.
- The Association of BC Drama Educators (ABCDE) is currently developing additional guidelines for teaching drama during COVID-19. Staff should refer to the ABCDE website for more information. In the case of any discrepancy in guidance, schools and school districts are expected to follow the Ministry of Education guidelines.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are permitted. We await information regarding vaccination passports later this month on to how to make them possible off-site. 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:

- For transportation, including school bus transportation, public transit and carpooling, see guidance in the transportation section in this document.
- Schools must ensure that volunteers providing supervision are trained in and strictly adhere to required health and safety guidelines.
- Alignment with relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders, including for international travel.
- Schools should consider guidance provided for overnight camps from BCCDC and the BC Camps Association when planning overnight trips that include group accommodation.

Local and international field trips will occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, Provincial, and Federal public health recommendations and Orders for local and/or international travel. OLGC School will follow the direction of the sites we visit for field trips.

OLGC Schools will use guidance provided for overnight camps from the BCCDC and the BC Camps Association when planning overnight trips that include group accommodation. OLGC School will follow the direction of the camp they visit – YMCA Camp Elphinstone.

Transportation

If and when OLGC School contracts a school bus, we will return to regular seating and onloading/offloading practices. Frequently-touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day and when visibly dirty. These include items touched by larger numbers of people (e.g. door handles, hand rails, etc.). Surfaces touched by fewer people (e.g. seats) should be cleaned 1x/day. Other general cleaning should occur in line with regular practices. A conversation will occur to see if this was done by the bus driver prior to loading.

OLGC School will continue to:

- Encourage bus drivers and passengers to practice hand hygiene and before and after trips and to practice respiratory etiquette as needed,
- Spread passengers out if space is available, and
- Open windows when the weather allows.

All people 12 and older should wear masks on school buses, with exceptions outlined in the Personal Protective Equipment section of this document and the additional exception that bus drivers can remove their masks while driving. Students 9 - 11 are encouraged to wear a mask according to the guidance outlined in the Personal Protective Equipment section of this document.

Students under 9 years of age mask use should be based on their personal or family/caregivers' choice.

For carpooling, please adhere to the following guidance with staff and families:

- Continue to spread out as much as possible,
- Travel with the same people whenever possible,
- Set the vehicle's ventilation to bring in fresh outside air, and do not re circulate the air,
- Open the windows when the weather allows,
- Clean hands before and after trips, and
- Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly.

All people 9 and older are encouraged to wear masks while carpooling, with exceptions outlined in the Personal Protective Equipment section of this document. Students under 9 years of age mask use should be based on their personal or family/caregivers' choice. Additionally, masks are not suggested if carpooling with members of the same household.

For people taking mass transit (e.g. municipal buses, the SkyTrain, ferries, etc.), hand hygiene should be practiced before and after trips. Riders should follow any other safety guidance (including mask guidance) issued by the relevant transit authority.

FOOD / CULINARY PROGRAMS

Schools can continue to include food preparation as part of learning programs for students. The following guidelines should be applied:

Food Safety

- In the case of food and culinary programs, where food is prepared as part of learning and is consumed by the students who prepared it, the following health and safety measures should apply:
 - Continue to follow normal food safety measures and requirements
 - Implement the cleaning and disinfecting measures outlined in the Cleaning and Disinfecting section of this document
- FOODSAFE Level 1 covers important food safety and worker safety information including food borne illness, receiving and storing food, preparing food, serving food, and cleaning and sanitizing. It is a helpful resource for those seeking education and training on food safety practices.

Food services (e.g., meal programs, cafeterias, fundraisers, etc.) can return to regular operational and food safety practices. Effective food safety practices are important for everyone preparing and distributing food. FOODSAFE Level 1 covers important food safety and worker safety information including food borne illness, receiving and storing food, preparing food, serving food, and cleaning and sanitizing. It is a helpful resource for those seeking education and training on food safety practices.

Schools can continue to provide food services, including for sale.

We await details how to re introduce our hot lunch program from our provider. When we are ready to start information will be communicated regarding the viability of doing so in each of our classrooms rather in our school auditorium. Food should not be shared by students.

For food contact surfaces, schools should ensure any sanitizers or disinfectants used are approved for use in a food service application and are appropriate for use against COVID-19. These may be different than the products noted in this document for general cleaning and disinfection. Additional information is available on the BCCDC website.

Schools can continue to accept food donations to support learning and the delivery of meal programs, breakfast clubs and other food access initiatives.

Schools should continue to emphasize that food and beverages should not be shared.

Students, staff and parents involved in food preparation and distribution will practice relevant food safety practices, including hand hygiene. These will be monitored by administrative and kitchen staff.

Community Use of Schools

OLGC School will allow community use of school facilities so long as the user group follows our OLGC School Communicable Disease prevention plan and procedures and related public health guidance, recommendations, and Orders.

Work Experience and TRAINING PROGRAMS

- OLGC trains EA Assistants from local programs. In collaboration and communication with these institutions we:
 - Ensure that staff and students in the K-12 school and attendees from these institutions are aware of communicable disease prevention measures in place.
 - Diligent student self-assessment of health when transitioning is in place
 - Attendees monitor health daily and wear a mask like all school staff.

Water Stations & Fountains

Our OLGC Water Fountains placed around the school are re opened for use. Janitorial staff will continue to clean and disinfect water fountains as a frequently touched surface and encourage hand hygiene before and after use. OLGC School regularly tests its potable water sources and passed recent testing for lead content in July 2021.

FUNDRAISERS

Schools can continue to offer fundraisers that can be implemented in line with the guidelines set. If the fundraisers involve the sale of food items, they should also align with the Guidelines for Food and Beverages in BC Schools.

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM AND ENTRY

- Information will be shared about communicable disease prevention measures that will be in place as part of communications to students and their families prior to school start.
 - Parents/caregivers must follow guidelines for visitors.
 - Kindergarten students will learn and practice respecting personal space, recognizing they are unlikely to be able to do this at all times.
 - students will be gently reminded of the expectations throughout the day and encourage students to kindly support one another.
 - Frequently-touched items like toys or manipulatives that may not be able to be cleaned often (e.g. fabrics) or at all (e.g. sand, foam, play dough, etc.) can be used, if hand hygiene is practiced before and after use.
- Carpets and rugs (e.g. for circle time activities) can also be used.

Personal Items & School Supplies

Students and staff can continue to bring personal items and school supplies to school for their own use. Students may not share items at this time.

Staff and 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 (e.g. food, drinks, unwashed utensils, cigarettes, vaping devices, wind instruments).

We will continue to not permit outside food drop off of fast food and meals and treats. Please send your child with lunch and snacks from home at the start of the day.

Students can continue to use their lockers, as it is better for personal items to be stored in a locker than to be stored in classrooms or carried throughout the school. Classroom teachers will continue to manage the flow of students around lockers to minimize crowding in these spaces.

4. Personal Measures

Daily Health Check

OLGC staff, other adults entering the school, parents, caregivers and students may not come to school if they are sick. Everyone who enters the school buildings must complete a **daily health check**. **See our olgschool.ca website for health check forms or see below.**

A daily health check means a person checking daily to ensure they (or their child) are not experiencing any symptoms of illness (including but not limited to COVID-19 symptoms) before coming to school. Daily health checks can be supported by the BCCDC resource on [when to get tested for COVID-19](#) or the Ministry of Education's [K-12 Health Check](#). The school does not need to confirm a daily health check has been done or monitor students and staff for symptoms of illness.

No one should come to school if they are sick or otherwise directed to self-isolate by public health.

If staff or students shows up sick, or displays the signs and symptoms of Covid-19 they will be isolated and sent home immediately.

Self-Monitoring, Self-Isolation and Additional Measures

Public health will continue to identify and notify close contacts who are required to self-monitor or self-isolate. Due to the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, fully vaccinated close contacts (i.e., 14 days have passed since their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine) are more likely to be asked to self-monitor, not self-isolate. If a person is required to self-isolate, public health ensures they have access to health-care providers and that other appropriate supports are in place. Students and staff are only required to self-monitor or self-isolate if directed to do so by public health.

School administrators must ensure the necessary plans are in place for students to be able to continue their educational program if they are required to self-isolate. School districts/authorities should also have contingency plans in place to arrange coverage for staff who are required to self-isolate.

Other people who are not identified as close contacts of a confirmed case, but who may have interacted with the person who tested positive while they were infectious, may also be advised by public health to self-monitor for symptoms.

Those required to self-monitor can still attend school. If they develop symptoms of COVID-19, they should stay home and seek testing.

School medical officers may require additional measures to be taken which may include:

- Requesting students and staff to stay home until contact tracing has been completed
- Self-isolation of a full class(es)
- Temporary restrictions or modifications of certain school activities

School medical officers will consider similar measures, as outlined above, in the event of a school cluster. Only in exceptional circumstances would a school medical officer consider a school closure.

Self Isolation 14 Days After International Travel

OLGC School's daily health check policies will align with current federal travel regulations as suggested by the PHO to including exemptions for fully vaccinated travelers. As of August 27, 2021:

- Fully vaccinated travelers 12 years and older can qualify for exemption from the mandatory 14-day quarantine period and Day 8 testing requirement (though must still complete the pre-entry testing requirement and randomized arrival testing if required)
- Unvaccinated travelers under 12 who accompanied by travellers who qualify for the fully vaccinated traveller exemption can qualify for exemption from the mandatory 14-day quarantine period (but still must complete the pre-entry, randomized arrival and Day 8 tests)
- Quarantine and testing are considered to be separate requirements – receiving a negative pre-entry or arrival test result does not exempt a traveler from the quarantine period.

Communications and Protecting Personal Privacy

School medical officers will play the lead role in determining if, when and how to communicate out information regarding an exposure to the school community. To protect personal privacy rights, public health will not disclose that a student or staff member tested positive for COVID-19 unless there is reason to believe they may have been infectious when they attended school. In this case, public health will provide only the information required to support effective contact tracing and only to the school administrator or delegate.

Public health will notify close contacts, including if any follow-up actions are recommended (e.g. self-isolate, monitor for symptoms, etc.). School medical officers will also work with the school administrator to determine if additional notifications are warranted (e.g. notification to the broader school community).

In some regions, public health will request support from schools in distributing notification letters/e-mails. In others, public health will issue the notifications directly via a letter/e-mail or phone call.

To ensure personal privacy rights are maintained and that information provided is complete and correct, schools and school districts/authorities should not provide any public statements about potential or confirmed COVID-19 school exposures unless communications have been reviewed and approved by the school medical officer or delegate prior to release (see the *Key Contacts* section for contact information by health authority).

School Administrator or Staff Informed of a Staff or Student Testing Positive for COVID-19

There may be circumstances where a staff member, student or parent/caregiver contacts a school administrator, teacher or support staff to inform them that they/their child tested positive for COVID-19, but the school administrator has not yet been contacted by the school medical officer. Teachers or support staff who receive this type of disclosure should inform their school administrator but should not share the information with other staff or students, recognizing the importance of respecting personal privacy.

Public health will already be aware of the confirmed case and will initiate contact tracing. School medical officers will only contact the school administrator if it is determined that the person who tested positive was infectious while they were at school (an exposure) or if they were potentially infected at school. There may be a delay in the school medical officer notifying the school administrator until the contact tracing required to make that determination has been completed (this process may take a few days from when the confirmed case was notified).

Rumour of COVID-19 Case Circulating in School Community

OLGC School cannot act on unconfirmed rumors regarding a case of COVID-19 in the school community. If a member of the school community tests positive for COVID-19, public health will contact any individuals who may have been close contacts, including those who may have been exposed at school.

Close Contacts of a Confirmed Case of COVID-19

If public health determines that a student or staff is a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19, the close contact will be asked to self-monitor for symptoms, and may be required to self-isolate. Only health authorities can

determine who is a close contact.

School administrators will not be notified by the school medical officer if a student or staff is identified as a close contact of a confirmed case. Close contacts asked to self-monitor may continue to attend school. If COVID-19 symptoms develop, they should stay home and get tested.

Close contacts required to self-isolate must not attend school. Necessary plans are in place for students to be able to continue their educational program while absent from school if they are required to self-isolate.

If Symptoms Develop at School

At OLGC School if a staff member, student, or other person develops symptoms of illness at school the following procedure will be used:

1. Move the person to a space that is comfortable, safe, and supervised (if necessary). This can be a separate location (e.g., another room, a common space, or outdoors if weather allows), or in the same space (e.g., a classroom) if the person can consistently be 2-metres away from others.
2. Contact the student's parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible (if applicable).
3. If the ill person requires assistance, where possible, maintain a 2-metre distance. If not possible, staff should wear a mask if available and tolerated.
4. Provide the person with a mask (if available and tolerated) or tissues if they are exhibiting respiratory symptoms (to cover their coughs or sneezes). Masks should not be worn if the person has gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., is at risk of vomiting). Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene.
5. Avoid touching the person's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva, vomit). If you do, practice hand hygiene.
6. Practice hand hygiene after the person has left.
7. Staff responsible for facility cleaning should clean and disinfect the surfaces in spaces where the person's body fluids may have been in contact while they were ill (e.g., their desk in a classroom, the bathroom stall they used, etc.).

What To Do When Sick

Staff and families can go to the BCCDC website to find information about what to do when they are sick with COVID-19 symptoms. Staff, students, and parents/caregivers can also use the BC Self-Assessment Tool app, call 8-1-1 or their health care provider for guidance. Information on region-specific services (e.g., testing and vaccination sites) is available on health authority websites.

Staff and families can also visit HealthLink BC or call 8-1-1 for support on what to do when sick with any symptoms of illness, including non-COVID-19 symptoms.

Returning to School After Illness

When a person can return to school after being sick depends on the type of illness they had.

- If they had COVID-19 or another communicable disease, they can return according to the guidance provided to them from public health.
- For other illnesses, generally, the person can return when their symptoms have improved and they feel well enough to participate in all activities at school.

If a person is unsure if they are well enough to attend school, they should call 8-1-1 or their health care provider for guidance.

OLGC School does 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.

Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household develops new symptoms of illness, provided the student/staff has no symptoms themselves. If the household member tests positive for a communicable disease (including but not limited to COVID-19), public health will advise the asymptomatic student/staff on next steps.

Hand hygiene

Students, staff and visitors wash hand multiple times in a day via sinks or hand sanitizer stations.

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water reduces the spread of illness. Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene.

How to practice diligent hand hygiene:

- Wash hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19.
- Temperature does not change the effectiveness of washing hands with plain soap and water, though warm water is preferred for personal comfort.
- If sinks are not available (e.g., students and staff are outdoors), use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (also called alcohol-based hand rub) containing at least 60% alcohol.
- If hands are visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand rub may not be effective at eliminating microbes. Soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly dirty. If it is not available, use an alcohol-based hand wipe followed by alcohol-based hand rub.
- To learn about how to perform hand hygiene, please refer to the BCCDC's hand hygiene poster.

Strategies to ensure diligent hand hygiene:

- Facilitate regular opportunities for staff and students to practice hand hygiene.
- Use portable hand-washing sites or alcohol-based hand rub dispensers where sinks are not available.
- Promote the importance of diligent hand hygiene to staff and students regularly.
- Use posters and other methods of promotion.
- Consider student-friendly posters on how to wash your hands.
- Show handwashing videos.
- Ensure hand washing supplies are well stocked at all times including soap, paper towels and where appropriate, alcohol-based hand rub with a minimum of 60% alcohol.
- Staff should assist younger students with hand hygiene as needed.

When Student and Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene:

- When they arrive at school.
- Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).
- Before and after eating and drinking (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk or locker).
- Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes with shared equipment.
- After using the toilet.
- After sneezing or coughing into hands.
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty.
- When they arrive at school.
- Before and after any breaks (e.g. recess, lunch).
- Before and after eating and drinking.

When Student and Staff Should Perform Hand Hygiene:

- 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 body fluids (i.e., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood).
- After cleaning tasks.
- After removing gloves.
- After handling garbage.
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

Respiratory Etiquette

Everyone should:

- Cough or sneeze into their elbow or a tissue. Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.
- Refrain from touching their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unwashed utensils, cigarettes, or vaping devices.

Parents and staff can teach and reinforce these practices among students.

5. Personal Protective Equipment

Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings

Public health continues to monitor community risk of COVID-19 as we progress toward high levels of vaccine coverage. Schools continue to be considered low risk settings for COVID-19 transmission, particularly in the context of a highly immunized population; however, non-medical masks will be recommended for the start of the school year. This will allow for an added layer of protection as schools transition to new measures. The non-medical mask guidance is expected to be reviewed later this fall with the intention that wearing a mask will eventually transition to a personal choice. Regional recommendations may also be issued by local medical health officers based on community risk. Mask requirements should, at minimum, adhere with any regional or provincial public health Orders.

Personal protective equipment (including masks) can provide an additional layer of protection. Non-medical masks and face coverings (masks) have a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19. They provide some protection to the wearer and to those around them.

In the event a regional or provincial public health recommendation or Order requires stricter non-medical mask use than what is outlined in this document, that recommendation or Order should be followed.

Those wearing masks should still continue to respect others personal space.

Masks should not be used in place of the other safety measures.

K-12 STAFF:

All K-12 staff are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses.

Supporting students with complex behaviours, medical complexities or receiving delegated care may require staff providing health services or other health care providers to be in close physical proximity or in physical contact with a medically complex or immune suppressed student.

- People providing these services in schools must wear a mask (medical or non-medical) when providing services and the service cannot be provided from behind a physical barrier. Additional PPE over and above that needed for routine practices and the use of a medical or non-medical mask is not necessary.
- Those providing health services in schools may be receiving different guidance related to PPE from their regulatory college or employer. Health service providers are encouraged to work with their employer to confirm what PPE is recommended for the services they provide in school settings.
- Parents and caregivers of children who are considered at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 are encouraged to consult with their healthcare professional.

For information on PPE when working with students where seeing facial expressions and/or lip movement is important, see the Guidelines for Staff Working with Students with Disabilities/Diverse Abilities where Physical Contact may be Required section.

K-12 STUDENTS:

All students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses.

All students K-12 in “bricks and mortar” schools should wear a non-medical mask or face covering (a “mask”) at all times while indoors at school, subject to the following exceptions:

- If a person is unable to wear a mask because they don’t tolerate it (for health or behavioural reasons*);
- If a person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. actively playing a wind instrument, high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
- If a person is eating or drinking;
- If a person is behind a barrier (e.g., a divider, a cubicle, or in a room by themselves);
- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.

Staff should utilize positive and inclusive approaches to engage students in the use of masks, and should not employ measures that are punitive or stigmatizing in nature.

VISITORS:

All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school.

EXCEPTIONS FOR STAFF, STUDENTS AND VISITORS:

The guidance outlined above regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstances:

- to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
- to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- if the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
- if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
- if a person is eating or drinking;
- if a person is behind a barrier; or
- while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important.

While the mask requirements outlined in this document specifically apply to K-12 schools, public health recommends that staff and visitors at non-school sites (e.g., administrative offices, maintenance facilities, etc.) wear masks in indoor common/shared spaces if they are not fully vaccinated. Staff and visitors at non-school sites must also adhere to any regional or provincial public health recommendations or orders for workplaces requiring increased mask use.

Schools must not require a health-care provider note for those that cannot wear a mask.

No student should be prevented from attending or fully participating at school if they do not wear a mask. See the Supportive School Environments section for more information.

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 the Government of Canada website.

Medical-grade masks are not required within school settings for general use.

Face shields are a form of eye protection for the person wearing it. They may not prevent the spread of droplets from the wearer. Face shields should not be worn in place of non-medical masks.

OLGC School will continue to update this plan and communicate updates as needed to parents, staff, students, PEC, Religious, JHSC Committee of OLGC.