GURU ANGAD DEV SCHOOL

Learn Lead Serve

Communicable Disease Prevention Plan

(This Policy has been reviewed and updated September 5th, 2025)

Please be reminded that 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 of any communicable disease.

- 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; still, those choices must be respected.
- Vaccines are still one of the most important tools to mitigate the spread of communicable diseases such as COVID-19. Vaccination is available for anyone aged 6 months and up. Being vaccinated is still one of the most effective protections against contracting, spreading and complications from COVID-19 and its variants. More info regarding vaccines for COVID-19 is available at https://immunizebc.ca/ and http://www.bccdc.ca/

Health Awareness

Health checks are still essential for all individuals that enter the school building, which includes staff, other adults, parents, caregivers and students. While we no longer monitor students or staff for symptoms of illness, it is up to the individual and in the case of students, the family/parents, to check if they are experiencing symptoms that inhibit them from coming to school (inhibit meaning: limiting their ability to participate fully in regular/routine activities). If any symptoms of illness are present, individuals should stay home until they are well. Symptoms of COVID-19, a rapid test should be taken (available for free at any pharmacy). Monitoring students or staff for symptoms of illness is no longer required.

What To Do When Sick

If staff members, students or other persons in the school setting are having symptoms of illness, such as COVID-19 or gastrointestinal illness, they should stay home until they are well enough to participate in regular activities or otherwise advised by a healthcare provider. Staff, students and other persons can attend school if their symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (i.e.: allergies) or symptoms have improved enough to where you feel well enough to return to regular activities and any

fever has been resolved without the use of medication. If you are not sure about your symptoms, call 8-1-1 or contact your healthcare provider. You do not require a doctor's note to return to school.

If You Develop Symptoms At School

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 or otherwise advised by a healthcare practitioner. Appropriate infection control precautions will be taken while the person is preparing to leave the school, including the use of hand hygiene and cleaning/disinfection of surfaces soiled with bodily fluids. They may use a mask if they are experiencing any respiratory symptoms. Doctors' notes are not required to confirm health status (beyond those used to support medical accommodation as per usual practice).

Hand Hygiene

Everyone should still be practicing rigorous hand washing with plain soap and/or using an effective hand sanitizer- this reduces the spread of illness. Touchless taps and sanitizer stations have been put in place to help promote proper hand hygiene in the school. Diligent hand hygiene and facilitation of regular hand-washing will be promoted.

Respiratory Etiquette

Parents and staff can teach and reinforce proper respiratory etiquette practices among students such as:

- Cough/sneeze into their elbow or tissue. Throw away used tissues (into proper receptacles) and immediately perform hand hygiene
- Refrain from touching eyes, nose, mouth with unwashed hands
- Refrain from sharing food, drinks, unwashed utensils etc.

Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings

Wearing a non-medical face mask is the choice of the individual (as it is no longer required by public health). The choice of staff and students to choose to wear one should be respected. Information on non-medical masks is available from http://www.bccdc.ca/

PPE When Providing Student Services

Staff and those providing services to students with medical complexity, immune suppression, receiving direct or delegate care, or with disabilities and diverse abilities who are in close proximity to a child should follow routine infection control practices and applicable care plans for that child.

Ventilation and Air Exchange

Ventilation, mechanical heating, air conditioning (HVAC) are designed, operated, and

maintained and working properly (as part 4 of OHS Regulation). Open windows when weather permits if it doesn't impact on the functioning of ventilation systems. Taking students outside more often is **no longer necessary** for communicable disease prevention.
Cleaning and Disinfection
Regular cleaning and disinfection prevents the spread of communicable diseases. All high touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently in line with regular practices and when visibly dirty.
Gatherings and Events
School extracurricular, social gatherings/events (including those between and within schools), no matter the location, will occur in line with this document (recommendations from BCCDC) as well as any applicable local, regional or provincial health recommendations/orders.
Space Arrangement
Classroom and learning environment configurations and activities will be used that best suit the learners' needs and preferred educational approaches. No restrictions for social distancing or spacing (personal preference used/respected).
Transportation
Buses will follow normal seating and on-loading/off-loading practices. Prevention measures outlined in this document will still be followed to help mitigate any spread of illness.
Visitors and Community Use of Schools
Normal practices for welcoming visitors and community use of schools.
Communicable Disease Management
Most communicable diseases experienced by students and staff in school settings can be managed by the individual or family at home through routine measures, such as staying home when sick. Information is available at http://www.bccdc.ca/ , https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/ , https://sneezesdiseases.com/ websites and other health resources like https://www.fraserhealth.ca/