



Christ Church Cathedral School’s Return to School Plan For the Prevention of Communicable Diseases Updated January 7, 2022

As 2022 unfolds, we find ourselves digging deeper into our reserves of strength, resilience, patience, and compassion. We know we must continue to be vigilant to slow down the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Recent orders from the Provincial Health Officer are included in the Communicable Disease Prevention Plan described below. The staff at Cathedral School will continue to do everything we can to keep the school environment and your children as safe as we can. We also pledge to make learning fun and engaging so your children will love coming to school.

Sincerely yours,

Stuart Hall

Christ Church Cathedral School and all other schools in BC are required to adhere to the standards, guidelines, and protocols from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), orders from the Provincial Health Officer, and WorkSafeBC standards.

What is Different – Omicron Variant: At this time, the Omicron variant is the most commonly circulating variant of COVID-19 in B.C. This variant is more infectious and is resulting in higher numbers of cases, and there is risk of exposure in all settings. Emerging data from around the world indicates that the Omicron variant is causing less serious illness, especially in highly immunized populations like in B.C.

The following tables present a summary of our plans to prevent communicable diseases, including COVID-19. The measures at the top are the most effective measures while personal protective equipment is the least effective measure but remains important just the same.

Christ Church Cathedral School will implement psychological safety measures and trauma-informed practice alongside physical health and safety measures. The school commits to ongoing, accurate and clear communication with all families, staff and students regarding our plans and we will update those plans as required and communicate these updates to our school community.

The trauma-informed practice described at the bottom of this table is a very effective way to help protect the mental health and well-being of our students and staff.

1. Public Health Measures	
Attendance and Record Keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school will maintain daily attendance records for staff, students, and visitors (including teachers on call, itinerant teachers/specialists, parents/caregivers, and volunteers), and will maintain accurate class seating and bus lists. ● Going forward, schools will be monitoring their attendance to determine if a public health-determined threshold for a grade or school has been met. If met, schools will send a notification to the school community indicating the threshold has been met and that they are following up with public health for further investigation.

	This is in alignment with Communicable Disease Prevention Steps already in place.
Contact Tracing Transitions to Self-management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health has transitioned to individual self-management (i.e., individuals care for themselves, engaging with health care providers when needed), with public health focused on identifying and responding to larger clusters and outbreaks. Individuals who test positive are to notify those they live with or have had intimate contact with. Public health advises that COVID-19 is going to continue to circulate in our population, and there will continue to be exposure to the virus in the community, irrespective of school attendance. More information is available from BCCDC.
Vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccines have been shown to reduce the spread of many communicable diseases, including COVID-19. Reducing the spread of COVID-19 protects not only the person vaccinated but also reduces the chances that those who cannot be vaccinated will contract the virus. All children 5 years and older can now receive a vaccination. It is important that everyone who works in or attends a school get vaccinated if they are eligible and stay up to date with boosters as they are eligible.

2. Environmental Measures	
Learning Space Configuration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning spaces are arranged to maximize the space available and to avoid people directly facing one another (where possible).
Ventilation & Air Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All HVAC systems are operating and have been maintained as per standards and specifications, and all are working properly. Every classroom (except the gym) has an industrial grade True HEPA Air Purifier, which will also provide some relief during times of poor air quality. All air purifiers will be oriented to reduce horizontal cross-ventilation in the classroom. All classrooms have windows that open, and teachers are encouraged to leave them open, weather permitting.
Cleaning and Disinfecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequently touched surfaces (those touched by larger numbers of people) are cleaned and disinfected at least once each day. Staff at Cathedral School have supplies handy if they need to clean and disinfect dirty surfaces at any time during the day. Staff at Cathedral School will sanitize desks and frequently touched surfaces in the classroom throughout the day when the students are away from the classroom. Other general cleaning occurs in line with regular practices.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If any student or staff member falls ill during the day, they will be segregated until they leave. The area they had previously been occupying will be cleaned and sanitized as appropriate.
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3. Administrative Measures	
School Gatherings & Events (Including Extracurricular)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School gatherings and events (e.g., assemblies, chapel, parent-teacher interviews, etc.) are held virtually, whenever possible. ● If gatherings and events must be in-person (e.g., inter-school sports games, theatre productions), the number of people in attendance is minimized as much as possible, does not exceed 50% operating capacity, and spectators are not present. ● Extracurricular sports tournaments are paused, however, individual competitions between teams can continue.
Entrances and Exits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have continued the practice of staggering class arrival and dismissal times. ● School staff will be asking students and families if they have completed a daily health check before entering school grounds. ● Classes will enter the building in small “pods” of students to avoid crowding at entrances/exits. ● During recess and lunch breaks, we have continued the practice of staggering access to the outdoors, which helps to limit crowded hallways. ● Designated entrances/exits have been assigned for classes coming from/going to the learning pavilion in order to limit crowding at entrances/exits and hallways.
Space Arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Within the confines of our classrooms, we will remind students to give each other adequate ‘personal space’. This means being mindful and developing an awareness of those nearby. With the addition of the middle school learning pavilion, we have additional space to conduct our learning activities. ● We will do our best to maximize outdoor learning all year.
Staff Specific Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff will respect the personal space of others while in common areas, classrooms, and hallways. ● The staff room should be limited to use by no more than 6 people at a time. ● Staff will clean/disinfect the space used in the staff room after use. ● Staff will limit their use of the photocopier in the main office and use the photocopier in the staff room instead. ● Only one person may be in the school office photocopier/supply room at any given time.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff-only gatherings such as meetings, professional development days, etc. will occur virtually.
<p>Visitors, Including Itinerant Staff, Temporary Teachers on Call, Parents and Others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parent access to the school (classroom areas, gym, auditorium, etc.) is not permitted at this time. ● Parents will say ‘goodbye’ to their children at the school gate. ● Parents who wish to come to the office are encouraged to call and make an appointment. ● Itinerant staff and temporary teachers on call upon arrival must sign-in with the school office. They will be informed of the school’s health and safety measures and must indicate acceptance of their responsibility to follow them at all times. ● All visitors coming to the office must first put on a non-medical mask, then ring the buzzer. Upon entry, they will sign in and write their contact information (phone number) on the form, sanitize their hands, and proceed directly to the door of the office. ● If someone else is visiting the office, please wait outside the office until invited in. ● The school will keep the sign-in list for 45 days.
<p>Curriculum, Programs and Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most learning activities will be able to proceed without undue extra precautions beyond good hygiene and sanitation practices, and the wearing of a mask while indoors. ● In Music and Band classes, 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 or playing an instrument such as a drum. In other words, if a mask can be worn, it should be worn. ● K-12 students and staff are required to wear masks during PHE classes when they are indoors and a barrier is not present. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 personal preference. ○ 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.
<p>Bus Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Frequently touched surfaces and all other touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected after each use of the bus. ● Practices are in place to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces when they are dirty. ● General cleaning will occur in line with regular practices. ● Students and bus drivers are required to wash or sanitize their hands before boarding and after leaving the bus.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will be spread out if empty seats are available. ● All staff and students, K - 8 are required to wear a mask while on the bus. The bus driver should remove his/her mask while driving. ● Windows on the bus are opened when the weather allows. ● Cathedral School does not support carpooling for school events and uses buses to transport students in almost all cases.
Food at School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students are not permitted to share food or drink. Please reinforce this with your child. ● Students and staff are encouraged to follow a “pack-in/pack-out” process for lunches and snacks. ● Our hot lunch providers are following regular operational and food safety practices as regulated. (Our hot lunch program will continue in January.)
Community Use of Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school can provide space for the community to use, provided those groups follow related public health guidance, recommendations and Orders.
Hand Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hand cleaning facilities and hand sanitizers are available and accessible throughout the school (inside and outside) and are well maintained.
Water Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The use of water fountains is not limited. However, we will encourage all students to bring a water bottle that they can refill during the day, thus reducing the unintentional spread of germs.

4. Personal Measures	
Daily Health Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff, parents and students have a responsibility to complete a Daily Health Check. There is a K-12 Health Check app and an interactive BCCDC Health Check Webpage appropriate for various aged students. There is also a Health Check Webpage for adults as well as other self-assessment tools provided by the BCCDC.
Stay Home When Sick / What to do When Sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students, staff, or other adults should stay at home when sick, as this is one of the most important ways to reduce the introduction to and the spread of COVID-19 in schools. ● Seasonal allergies, or ongoing conditions that are stable and unchanging would not require a person to stay home. ● Parents/caregivers and students can use the K-12 Health Check app, however, all illnesses mean the person must stay home. ● Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online Self-Assessment Tool, call 8-1-1 or their health care provider

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and other adults can refer to BCCDC’s “When to get tested for COVID-19”
If Staff or Students Fall Ill During the Day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a student is determined to be sick during the day, parents will be called and asked to pick up their child as soon as possible. When any person develops symptoms of illness while at school, they will be asked to isolate from others immediately. Students will be provided a mask if they do not already have one. If required, staff will be provided assistance to get home. All surfaces touched by the ill person will be cleaned and disinfected. A record is kept of any staff or students who fall ill while at school. Any person who falls ill while at school (or while at home) should use the assessment tools listed above.
Stay Home When Required to Self-Isolate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students, staff or other adults must stay home if they are required to self-isolate. Additional information on self-isolation requirements and support is available from BCCDC.
Returning to School After Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health care provider notes (i.e., a doctor’s note) are not required to confirm the health status of any individual, beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual practice. Generally, people can return to school or work once they begin to feel better, if they have not been told to self-isolate. The specific guidance for how long a person should remain at home will depend upon the symptoms experienced. Please visit the BCCDC website for up to date instructions for specific situations.
Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students in grades K - 2 will wash their hands immediately upon entry to the school. (Sinks in the classroom or the washroom directly outside the classroom will be used) Students in grades 3 - 5 will wash their hands with soap and water at our outdoor sink before entering the school buildings at all times. Students in grades 6 - 8 will wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer immediately upon entering the learning pavilion. Hand cleaning facilities are available and accessible throughout the school, and in every classroom, and are well maintained.

5. Personal Protective Equipment	
Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff, adult volunteers and visitors, and students in Grade K to 8 must wear a non-medical mask while inside the school in accordance with the PHO Order on Face Coverings.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exemptions can be made for students with certain medical conditions or behavioural responses that make mask wearing intolerable. ● Masks are available at the office for those who have forgotten theirs.
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Supportive School Environment & Trauma-Informed Practice	
Personal Prevention Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The adults at the school will continue to support students as they practice personal prevention measures like hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. We have signs in place in all classrooms, the washrooms, and hallways reminding students about these personal prevention practices.
Personal Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students and staff will be encouraged to consider and respect each others' personal space. Personal space is the distance from which a person feels comfortable being next to another person.
Positive & Inclusive Approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All staff will use positive and inclusive approaches to support students' personal prevention practices. No one will be made to feel guilty or ashamed if they are not performing the personal prevention practices correctly or if they cannot, for example, wear a mask.
Trauma-Informed Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This has been a very long pandemic and students and staff come to school with diverse experiences, family practices and beliefs, and varying levels of anxiety. All the adults in the school have committed to look at things through a compassionate, trauma-informed lens when planning activities, events, lessons, field trips, etcetera, in order to support students and ensure they feel welcomed and safe while at school.

WorkSafeBC Requirements	
Workplace Injuries and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a worker is injured as part of their workplace duties/tasks, follow the established procedures. ● Report all workplace injuries to your supervisor.
Workplace Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Workers have the right to refuse unsafe work. If you have reasonable cause to believe that performing a job or task puts you or someone else at risk, due to a lack of safety protocols and procedures, you must not perform the job or task.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must immediately notify your supervisor or employer, who will then take the appropriate steps to follow: https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/create-manage/rights-responsibilities/refusing-unsafe-work
Workplace Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If workers are expected to follow special safety measures such as deep cleaning, working alone, or working from home, they should know and follow any “Safe Work Procedures” for those tasks including the “Work at Home (Telecommuting) Policy” Contact your supervisor or the Head of School if you have any questions or concerns about work procedures.
Workplace Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Employee Assistance Plan (EAP) with Amira Health provides a number of tools and resources to assist with coping with COVID-19 and maintaining emotional well-being during the pandemic.

COVID-19 Protocol Responsibilities	
Employer (Christ Church Cathedral Educational Society)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select, implement, and document risk assessments and appropriate site-specific control measures Ensure that all resources and materials required to implement and maintain the plan are reasonably made available as practical when required. Ensure that supervisors and workers are informed about the content of safety policies. Conduct a periodic review of the effectiveness of the plan. This includes a review of the available control technologies to ensure that these are selected and used when practical. Maintain records or training and inspections.
Supervisors (Head and Assistant of School and other school leaders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that workers are knowledgeable regarding the controls required to minimize their risk of exposure to COVID-19. Direct work in a manner that eliminates or minimizes the risk to workers. Post or relay educational and informational material in an accessible area for workers to review. Know how and when to report exposure incidents.
Workers (Teachers, Educational Assistants, Support Staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the controls required to minimize their risk of exposure to COVID-19. Participate in COVID-19 related training and instruction. Follow established work procedures and instructions as directed by the employer or supervisor. Report any unsafe conditions or acts to the supervisor.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Know how and when to report exposure incidents.
Facilities Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain an inventory of PPE for custodians, cleaning and disinfectant products, and well-maintained equipment used for cleaning and disinfecting. ● Provide adequate instruction to custodians on the hazards associated with cleaning work areas and on the safe work procedures specified in this Communicable Diseases Prevention Plan. ● Direct the work in a manner that ensures the risk to trades and custodians is minimized and adequately controlled. ● Revise the work schedule to ensure priority intensive cleaning of impacted work area surfaces and touch points.
Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make recommendations to the employer for the improvement and implementation of the Communicable Diseases Prevention Plan. ● Identify situations that may be unhealthy or unsafe for workers and advise on effective systems for responding to those situations. ● Consult with workers and the employer on orientation/training on the Communicable Diseases Prevention Plan and to monitor their effectiveness.
Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perform the Daily Health Check with their children and follow the directions as to when to stay home. If a child has any symptoms of illness, they must not go to school. ● Remind their children not to share food, drink, or other personal items. ● Provide a water bottle for their children to limit the use of water fountains. ● Provide their children with non-medical masks and remind them to wear them at school. ● Masks should be properly fitting non-medical masks constructed of nonwoven synthetic layers — preferably something in the N95/KN95/KF94 class. (Avoid woven cloth masks) ● A spare mask should be sent as well in case their primary mask becomes dirty or lost. ● Reinforce the practice of good hand hygiene. ● Reinforce the practice of social distancing, the need to minimize physical contact, and respect the personal space of others. ● Remain outside the playground gate when dropping off or picking up their children. ● Pick-up children as soon as possible should they become ill at school.