

Highroad Academy COVID-19 Safety Plan (Update – Feb. 26th)

On February 4th, all schools in British Columbia received updated guidelines around school health and safety plans. We have just passed the mid-point of the school year and although there are some new guidelines to follow, the focus really is about maintaining the structures and procedures already in place, and a reminder about compliance fatigue.

- A. Government Links
- B. Health Checks – When to get tested.
- C. Highroad Academy’s response to the 8 focus areas for schools based on reviews of school exposures to date.
- D. Summary of the new or revised BCCDC guidelines from the February 4th release.

A. Government Links

If you are interested in reading the latest releases around guidelines for schools, the links are included below:

Ministry of Education - [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)

BCCDC - [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#)

New BCCDC website - [BCCDC K-12 Schools and COVID-19](#)

School Checklist - [BCCDC COVID-19 Health and Safety Checklist](#)

B. Health Checks

We ask that you continue to be vigilant in doing health checks with your children daily and if they are sick to please keep them at home. Below are the latest guidelines around health checks and when to get tested.

COVID-19

When to get tested for COVID-19

Based on current evidence, some symptoms are more likely to be related to COVID-19 than others.

If you or your child have any of the symptoms listed below, follow the instructions.

SYMPTOMS	WHAT TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever (above 38° C)• Chills• Cough• Loss of sense of smell or taste• Difficulty breathing	<p>1 or more of these symptoms: Get tested and stay home.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sore throat• Loss of appetite• Headache• Body aches• Extreme fatigue or tiredness• Nausea or vomiting• Diarrhea	<p>If you have 1 symptom: Stay home until you feel better.</p> <p>2 or more of these symptoms: Stay home and wait 24 hours to see if you feel better. Get tested if not better after 24 hours.</p>
<p>If you are a close contact* of someone who has COVID-19 and have any of the symptoms listed above: Get tested and stay home.</p>	
<p>Check your symptoms with the B.C. Self-Assessment Tool. If you have any questions, or the symptoms get worse, contact your healthcare provider or call 8-1-1.</p>	

* You will be notified if you are a close contact. For more information on close contacts, go to <http://www.bccdc.ca/covid19closecontacts>

For more information on COVID-19, go to www.bccdc.ca

If you develop severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing (e.g. struggling to breathe or speaking in single words) or chest pain, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department.

C. Highroad Academy's response to the 8 focus areas for schools based on reviews of school exposures to date.

School medical officers have recommended the following key areas of focus for schools based on reviews of school exposures to date:

1. Prevent crowding and gathering; pay particular attention to the start and end of the day.
2. Avoid close face-to-face contact whenever possible.
3. Assign staff to a specific learning group whenever possible.
4. Stagger recess, lunch and class-transition times whenever possible.
5. Ensure that the use of masks does not reduce or replace practicing physical distancing between learning groups and other prevention measures, for both students and staff.
6. Ensure prevention measures are in place in staff only areas, including break and meeting rooms.
7. Implement music classes according to the Coalition for Music Education in BC "Guidance for Music Classes".
8. High intensity physical activity should occur outside whenever possible.

Focus Areas:

- 1. Prevent crowding and gathering; pay particular attention to the start and end of the day**
- 2. Avoid close face-to-face contact whenever possible.**
- 3. Assign staff to a specific learning group whenever possible.**
- 4. Stagger recess, lunch and class-transition times whenever possible.**
- 5. Ensure that the use of masks does not reduce or replace practicing physical distancing between learning groups and other prevention measures, for both students and staff.**

Highroad Response

Elementary:

A. Start of the day

- Families are encouraged to drop students off as close to 8:45 as possible to minimize the number of students from different cohorts interacting on the playground.
- Primary students are kept separate from Intermediate students while outside before school.
- On days with inclement weather, students are sent to the gym where they are separated into their cohort groups.
- Students are let into the school early (8:45am) to allow students to go right to their classes instead of the playground.
- For the main building, elementary students enter through separate front entrance doors separate from High School students.
- Students are asked whether their Health check has been completed and are asked to sanitize hands upon entering the school.
- Classroom teachers ask students whether their Health Check has been completed before entering the class and have hands sanitized.

B. Staggered recesses

- Primary (9:50) and Intermediate (10:15) classes are given separate recess times to minimize the number of bodies outside at one time.

- Classes are sent out and brought into the school before and after recesses in a manner that helps reduce crowding and maintains a 6ft distance between students while in the hallway.
- Students sanitize prior to going outside and wash hands with soap when coming back into the classes.

C. Staggered lunches

- Primary and Intermediate classes are given separate recess times to minimize the number of bodies outside at one time. Primary classes go outside first and eat when they come in from recess. Intermediate students eat first then go outside at the end of the eating period.
- Classes are sent out and brought into the school before and after recesses in a manner that helps reduce crowding and maintains a 6ft distance between students while in the hallway.
- Students sanitize prior to eating lunch and again prior to going outside. After recess, students wash hands with soap when coming back into the classes.

D. Classrooms

- In classrooms, desks have been adjusted as much as possible and where possible to allow for increased space between students avoiding direct face to face seating arrangements.
- Desks in elementary classrooms have been arranged to allow for more open spaces and for teachers to create workstations that are 6ft away from students.
- Students are assigned seating and are only moved to different areas when necessary.
- Masks are not mandatory for students at this time. Teachers must wear masks at all times when they are not within their workstation areas, traveling through other areas of the school or are within a 6ft distance of students.
- Teachers incorporate individual and group assignments that encourage greater space between students.
- Teachers adapt group activities to minimize physical contact and reduce shared items. Each class has access to class sets of Items, including items like paint brushes and other art supplies, to ensure that students do not need to

share. Other supplies and manipulatives are sanitized or retired for a certain period of time before being reused.

E. Outside

- Students are encouraged to maintain physical distance when playing with other students. Games that incorporate close physical contact, including Gaga Ball, are not allowed.

F. Common areas

- At the beginning of the day, all elementary enter through the designated front door area. Exiting of the school at the end of the day and at other points of the day, including recesses, is from the school doors located on the east side of the building. Kindergarten uses the designated Elementary doors at the front of the school for entering and exiting the school.
- Classes located directly beside the doors on the east side of the school (including classes in the Portables) access the music room, gym and chapel using the east side doors. This frees up space in the hallways and minimizes contact with other classes/cohorts needing to travel through the hallways at the same time.
- Student use of washrooms is restricted to three students at a time. Hallways are marked with floor decals to encourage appropriate social distancing for students needing to wait in the hallway to use the washroom.
- Students are allowed to use lockers located in the hallway or in locker rooms (portables). Use of lockers is staggered to minimize crowding.
- All staff members must wear masks when traveling through common areas and in any meeting areas where a 6ft distance cannot be maintained between students and/or other staff members.

G. Chapels

- Primary and Intermediate chapels are on separate days.
- Chapels times are staggered to provide more space between cohorts.
- While in chapel, students in different cohorts are seated apart from each other, separated by a large empty space measuring greater than 6ft.
- Chapel musicians and leaders are staggered while on stage and are more than 6ft away from students who are seated.

- Chapel times are only 15 - 20 mins in duration to minimize time spent in the chapel space.

H. End of the day

- At the end of the day, students are led out by teachers in a staggered fashion.
- Students are lined up with their teacher in designated areas to minimize mingling between cohorts.
- Parents are encouraged to pick students up as close to dismissal time as possible.
- Playground areas are closed to students at the end of the day to encourage families to leave school property as quickly as possible and reduce the possibility of mingling between cohorts.
- Students are dismissed from their teacher when a parent collects their child(ren).

I. Cohorts (students and staff)

- Kindergarten K1 & K2 (3 teachers and 3 EAs)
- Grade 1 (1 teacher and 2 EAs)
- Grade 1/2 and Grade 2 (2 teachers and 3 EAs)
- Grade 3A and B (2 teachers and 2 EAs)
- Grade 4A and B (2 teachers and 3 EAs)
- Grade 5 (1 teacher and 1 EA)
- Grade 5/6 and Grade 6 (2 teachers and 1 EA)

J. Barriers

- Barriers made of transparent material have been installed in places where physical distance cannot be regularly maintained, and a person is interacting with numerous individuals outside of a learning group. (Ex. front reception desk, library check out desk, learning support)
- The school has purchased extra portable barriers for various situations.

K. Reminders

- Students are consistently reminded to avoid close greetings (hugs, handshakes) and about keeping their hands to themselves.

L. Hygiene

- Teachers and students consistently follow the provincial recommendations provided on hand sanitization.
- Each classroom is equipped with hand-sanitizer and wipes.

Focus Areas:

1. **Prevent crowding and gathering; pay particular attention to the start and end of the day**
2. **Avoid close face-to-face contact whenever possible.**
3. **Assign staff to a specific learning group whenever possible.**
4. **Stagger recess, lunch and class-transition times whenever possible.**
5. **Ensure that the use of masks does not reduce or replace practicing physical distancing between learning groups and other prevention measures, for both students and staff.**

Highroad Response:

Secondary:

A. Start of the day.

- School starts at 9:00. Doors are opened at 8.20 AM for the start of the day to allow for a more gradual entry.
- High school students must enter and exit at a separate door from elementary students.
- If there are multiple students, they line up in single file, 6 feet apart as much as possible.
- Students must wear a mask when entering. If they do not have a mask, one is provided.
- Students proceed upstairs to the high school and head to their first class.

B. Staggered schedule

- Our 2 cohorts have separate schedules of 10-15 minutes apart so only one group is in the hallway at one time.

C. Staggered lunches

- Cohort #8 – 11:35, Cohort #9 -11:40

D. Classrooms

- Classrooms are configured to provide as much space between students and staff as possible.
- Students are seated side by side and front facing.
- Students are encouraged to wear masks during class. Teachers use masks if they cannot be more than 6 feet away from students.
- We use consistent or assigned seating arrangements where practical.
- We incorporate activities that encourage greater space between students and staff as much as is practical to do so.
- Adapt group activities to minimize physical contact and reduce shared items. Though all our classrooms are on the same floor, we have designated certain rooms to particular cohorts. Our junior high students stay mostly at the west end of the hall, while our senior high students stay mostly at the east end of the hall.

E. Outside

- Outside spaces are used as much as possible. At times where more than one cohort is on break, gym time is divided up by cohort while the other cohort is outside or in their lunchrooms.

F. Common areas

- Our staggered schedule allows us to manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways/lockers, to minimize crowding.
- We make use of posters, digital signage, floor markings and announcements to address traffic flow.

G. Chapels

- Chapel takes place one block per week. The time is divided up by cohort.
- Each cohort enters chapel using the inside halls and exits using outdoor entrances to avoid interaction with other cohorts.

H. End of the day

- Cohorts are dismissed at separate times to avoid interaction as much as is reasonable. (Cohort #8 - 2:50, Cohort #9 -3:00)
- Students and families are encouraged to vacate campus as soon as possible.

I. **Cohorts (students and staff)**

- Cohort #8 - Grades 7 & 8 & 9
 - 100 students, 8 teachers, 4 EAs (Education Assistants)
- Cohort #9 - Grades 10 & 11 & 12
 - 70 students, 10 teachers, 4 EAs (Education Assistants)

I. **Barriers**

- barriers made of transparent material have been installed in places where physical distance cannot be regularly maintained, and a person is interacting with numerous individuals outside of a learning group. (Ex. front reception desk, library check out desk)
- The school has purchased extra portable barriers for various situations.

J. **Reminders**

- Students are regularly reminded to avoid close greetings (hugs), and about keeping their hands to themselves.
- Signage and prompts have been put up around the school to remind about health checks, mask requirements, social distancing.
- Sandwich boards are outside the school entrance to remind students, staff, and visitors of the necessity of health checks prior to entering the building.
- On buzzing to enter the school, everyone is asked to report to the office to check in and verify their health check.

K. **Hygiene**

- Posters and digital signage remind students to wash their hands.
- Each classroom has a set of masks, spray, and anti-bacterial sanitizer.
- There are free standing hand sanitizer stations in each hallway.
- Desks are wiped down between each class period.

Focus Area:

6. Ensure prevention measures are in place in staff only areas, including break and meeting rooms.

Highroad Response:

Department Meetings

- Meetings are run in one of two ways:
 - If social distancing (2M) is possible, then staff can meet in person. For smaller departments, this is the typical format.
 - If social distancing (2M) is not possible, then staff meet in online platforms

Lunch rooms

- The school has expanded from 2 to 3 staff rooms
- With staggered recesses and lunches, there is more than enough room for staff to social distance in the current set-up.
- Snack days have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.
- Staff are required to bring their own cups, plates and utensils.

Focus Area:

7. Implement music classes according to the Coalition for Music Education in BC "Guidance for Music Classes".

Highroad Response

Primary

- Students are not required to wear masks.
- Students sanitize their hands upon entering the classroom, and again when exiting to return to their classroom.
- Students practice social distancing by sitting in chairs that are ~6 feet apart and giving each other space when doing activities that require movement.
- Teacher wears a mask unless in the "safe zone", which is several meters away from students.

Intermediate

- Students are not required to wear masks.
- Students practice social distancing by sitting in chairs that are ~6 feet apart and giving each other space when doing activities that require movement.
- Students sanitize their hands when entering and exiting the classroom.
- Students sanitize their instruments or equipment when they are done using them, either at the end of class or when another student is going to use it.
- Teacher wears a mask unless in the “safe zone”, which is several meters away from students.

High school

- Students are required to wear masks throughout the entire class time, even when singing or playing their instruments.
- Students sanitize equipment after each use.
- Students only play and sing, or sit and listen, with other students from their cohort. Students practice social distancing when listening and when performing.
- Teachers wear masks throughout the duration of class and practice social distancing as much as possible.

Focus Area:

8. High intensity physical activity should occur outside whenever possible.

Highroad Response

BEGINNING OF CLASS:

- Students will complete a daily health check before entering the gym/weightroom.
- Students will wash hands thoroughly before entering the gym/weightroom and at the end of each class.
- Students will bring their own water bottles to class and must not share with anyone else.
- Students will wear a mask when arriving and leaving the gym/weightroom and in all common areas.

DURING CLASS:

- Students may choose to wear a mask while participating in any high exertion activity.
- PE/Fitness classes will focus on skill development and/or activities that allow for natural physical distancing within the game (Ex. Badminton).
- Whenever off the court or not participating in drills, students should exercise physical distancing from those not part of their educational cohort.
- Players should wear a face covering when a distance of 2 meters, off the court, cannot be maintained.
- If any student show signs of illness during the class (not directly related to the physical activity participated in), they will be sent to first aid for further assessment.
- Students must cover their mouth and nose with their elbow when sneezing or coughing.
- Students should avoid touching their face whenever possible.
- Students should wipe down all equipment used while participating in fitness exercises in the weightroom.
- Students should try to physical distance when possible while participating fitness exercises.
- When spotting, students should wear face coverings.

END OF CLASS:

- Students should wipe down all equipment used while participating in fitness exercises in the weightroom.
- Students will wash hands thoroughly before entering the gym/weightroom and at the end of each class.
- Students will wear a mask when arriving and leaving the gym/weightroom and in all common areas.

D. Summary of the new or revised BCCDC guidelines from the February 4th release.

Learning Groups - updated language to align with current BCCDC guidance and additional guidance on learning group composition changes and size exemption.

- The composition of learning groups should remain consistent for all activities that occur in schools (i.e. students and staff cannot be part of more than one learning group at the same time). Students and staff from different learning groups can interact with one another while practicing physical distancing.
- Learning group composition can be changed at the start of a new term (e.g., quarter, semester). Outside of these transition points, composition should be changed as minimally as possible except where required to support optimal school functioning. This may include learning, operational or student health and safety considerations. No additional safety protocols are required following a change in learning group composition.
- School administrators should keep up-to-date lists of all members of a learning group, and others who work with that learning group (e.g. itinerant teachers, TTOCs), and their contact information to support swift communications from the school and to share with public health to support contact tracing, if needed.
- Unless staff members belong to the same learning group, they should maintain physical distance 2(m) from one another at all times. Masks are not a replacement for physical distancing between staff from different learning groups

Physical Distancing - updated language to align with current BCCDC guidance.

Physical distancing refers to a range of measures aimed at reducing close contact with others. Physical distancing is used as a prevention measure because COVID - 19 tends to spread through prolonged, close, face- to-face contact.

- Within learning groups, physical distancing should include avoiding physical contact, minimizing close, prolonged, face-to-face interactions, and spreading out as much as possible within the space available. Young children may not be able to consistently reduce physical contact.
- Outside of learning groups, physical distancing should include avoiding physical contact and close, prolonged face-to-face interactions, spreading out as much as possible within the space available, and ensuring there is 2 meters of space available between people from different learning groups.
- For situations where members of different learning groups interact:
If people will be in the same space for an extended period of time (>15 minutes), the space should be sufficiently large, and/or should have limits on the number of people so that 2 meters of space is available between people from different learning groups.

If people will be in the same space for transition purposes (e.g. changing between classes), and other measures are in place (e.g. markings on the floor, staggered transition times), there should be enough space to ensure no physical contact but 2 meter physical distancing is not required.
- Within and outside of learning groups, there should be no crowding.
- Staff and other adults should seek to reduce the number of close, face-to-face interactions with each other at all times, even if wearing a non-medical mask. This includes during break times and in meetings.

Staff Only Spaces - new section with guidance for adult-to-adult interactions.

Experience to date underscores the importance of COVID-19 prevention among adults, as well as students, in the school setting. Schools and school districts must ensure physical distancing is practiced within staff only spaces, including during break times, regardless of whether or not masks are worn. To support this, schools can implement the following strategies:

- Utilize floor markings and signage to direct traffic flow and prevent crowding (e.g. in the break room, by the photocopier, etc.).
- Hold meetings virtually whenever possible.
- Ensure staff practice physical distancing (2m) during face-to-face meetings. Staff are required to wear masks when indoors, unable to maintain physical distance, and a barrier is not present.
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Working with Students with Disabilities/Diverse Abilities - recommended strategies when working with students who are deaf or hard of hearing; PPE for staff and students.

When working with students where seeing facial expressions and/or lip movement is important, and physical distancing cannot be maintained, the strategies outlined in the Itinerant Staff and Specialists section should be explored. Where a mask is required, options include having the staff member wear a mask with a transparent section to enable visualization of the mouth.

- For elementary school students, the student or parent/caregiver should determine whether or not the student should also be wearing any PPE when receiving services in close physical proximity.
- Middle and secondary school students are also required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering when receiving services indoors, in close physical proximity and where there is no barrier between the student and staff member. Exceptions will be made for staff and students who cannot wear masks for health or behavioral reasons.
- 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 if additional PPE is required, in accordance with routine practices.

School Gatherings and Events - updated guidance on staff gatherings and examinations/assessments.

Adequate space should be made available to prevent crowding of those within the learning group.

- Staff meetings, in-service and professional development activities, and other staff only gatherings should be held virtually wherever possible.
- Staff should practice physical distancing (2m) for face-to-face interactions, whenever possible.
- If physical distancing cannot be maintained, and a barrier is not present, participants are required to wear masks.
- The number of participants gathered, and the length of the gathering should be minimized as much as possible.
- Examinations or assessments are not considered school gatherings, however they must still be delivered in accordance with the health and safety guidelines outlined in this document and should not include non-student and staff spectators (e.g. performance arts concert or play where families are invited to attend).

Cleaning and Disinfecting - updated guidance regarding water fountains, shared manipulatives and toys, and paper-based products.

- Items used by multiple students and staff, including doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, water fountains, faucet handles, toilet handles, tables, desks, chairs, manipulatives and toys.
- Students and staff should be encouraged to bring an individual, filled water-bottle or other beverage container to school each day for their personal use to support hydration needs.
- Re-filling water stations can be used to re-fill personal containers (these should not include washroom sinks or other water sources not typically used for drinking water.)
- Water fountains where a person drinks directly from the spout should be used minimally, and only if no other means of water access are available. Hand hygiene should be practiced before and after use.
- Access to water and to washrooms should not be restricted.

Visitor Access/Community Use - measures to reduce crowding and support contact tracing; mask requirements for visitors and volunteers.

- Parents/caregivers and other visitors should maintain physical distance and avoid crowding while on school grounds, including outside.
- Schools must ensure that visitors are aware of health and safety protocols and requirements prior to entering the school (e.g., maintaining physical distance, requirement to wear a non-medical mask inside the school).
- Schools are responsible for ensuring that all visitors confirm they are not ill and are not required to self-isolate before entering.
- Schools could include, as part of their visitor registration/sign-in process, for the visitor to confirm they are not ill and are not required to self-isolate.
- All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school.
- Adult volunteers can continue to support outdoor supervision/monitoring, provided that they follow required health and safety protocols (e.g. maintaining physical distance, wearing a mask when unable to maintain physical distance, etc.).

Illness & Self-Assessment Policies and Protocols - updated language to align with current BCCDC and WorkSafeBC guidance; link to new K-12 Health Check app.

School districts and independent school authorities must develop local protocols for schools and adult-only worksites/offices that:

- Ensure staff and other adults (e.g. parents, caregivers, visitors) entering the school/worksite are aware of their responsibility to:
- assess themselves daily for illness prior to entering the school/worksite (e.g. emails/letters to parents and staff, orientation video, signage on doors.)
- stay home and self-isolate if they are sick OR travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days OR were identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak by their local health authority

- Clearly communicate with parents/caregivers their responsibility to assess their children daily before sending them to school, and keep them home from school if they are sick or if they have been directed to self-isolate by their local health authority.
- Establish procedures for students and staff who become sick while at school/work to be sent home as soon as possible.
 - Some students may not be able to be picked up immediately. As such, schools should have a space available where the student or staff can wait comfortably that is separated from others and provide them with a non-medical mask.
 - Schools must provide supervision for younger children. Supervising staff should wear a non-medical mask and face shield if they are unable to maintain physical distance, avoid touching bodily fluids as much as possible, and practice diligent hand hygiene.
- Establish procedures that allow for students and staff to return to school/work. This is to ensure students and staff who are not not kept out of school/away from work longer than necessary.

STAYING HOME, SELF-ISOLATION AND SYMPTOMS

Stay Home When Required to Self-Isolate

The following students, staff or other adults must stay home and self-isolate:

- A person confirmed by the health authority as testing positive for COVID-19; or
- A person confirmed by the health authority as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19; or
- A person who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days.
- A person who has been tested for COVID-19 must stay home while they are waiting for the test result.

Additional information on self-isolation requirements and support is available from BCCDC.

Symptoms of Illness and Return to School

- 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. The following resources provide guidance regarding specific symptoms of illness:

- Parents/caregivers and student scan use the K-12 Health Check app.
- Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online Self-Assessment Tool, call 8-1-1 or their health care provider.
- Students and staff who experience symptoms consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g. seasonal allergies) can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. They do not require re-assessment by a health-care provider and should not be required to provide a health-care provider note. If they experience any new or unexplained symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health care provider.
- 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 COVID-19, public health will advise the asymptomatic student/staff on self-isolation and when they may return to school. Most illness experienced in B.C. is not COVID-19, even if the symptoms are similar.

Personal Protective Equipment - updated guidance regarding mask use, and PPE for delivery of health services in schools.

- Although personal protective equipment (including masks) is the lowest level on the hierarchy of Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measure, it can provide an additional layer of protection when more effective measures are not feasible. 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.
- Those wearing masks must still maintain physical distancing whenever possible. There must be no crowding or congregating of people, even if masks are worn.
- Masks should not be used in place of the other safety measures detailed in this document. For example, masks are not a replacement for the need for physical distancing for in-class instruction delivered to students from more than one learning group.

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) in schools- both within and outside of their learning group, except when:
 - sitting in (or standing at) their seat or desk/workstation in a classroom or learning space;
 - there is a barrier in place;
 - eating and drinking; and
 - outdoors.

- 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) on school buses.
- Exceptions will also be made for staff who cannot tolerate masks (e.g. health or behavioral reasons).

MIDDLE AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS:

All middle and secondary school students 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) in schools - both within and outside of their learning group except when:

- sitting in (or standing at) their seat or desk/workstation in a classroom or learning space;
 - there is a barrier in place;
 - eating and drinking; and
 - outdoors.
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- All middle and secondary school students are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) on school buses.
 - Exceptions will also be made for students who cannot tolerate masks.

- 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.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS:

- Elementary students are not required to wear a mask in schools or on school buses.
- Elementary students' mask use should be based on their personal or family/caregiver choice, and their choices must be respected.

Emergency and Evacuation Drills - new section.

- Schools should continue to practice emergency (e.g. fire, earthquake, lockdown) and evacuation drills, including the six required annual fire drills, and modify current drill procedures to adhere to health and safety guidelines (e.g., providing additional muster spots to prevent crowding/congregating).
- Schools must continue to update their fire safety plans on an annual basis, as per the BC Fire Code, to pandemic protocols). School fire safety plans, including fire drill procedures, should be developed in cooperation with the local fire department and other regulatory authorities.
- Schools may also need to consult with their local medical health officer for guidance on physical distancing and PPE, based on their site specific conditions and evacuation procedures.
- In the event of an actual emergency, emergency procedures must take precedence over COVID-19 preventive measures.

Music Programs - updated guidance re physical distancing and mask use.

All classes, programs and activities (e.g. Band, Choir) can continue to occur where:

- K-12 staff and middle and secondary students wear masks while singing indoors.

Under Stage 2:

- physical contact is minimized for those within the same learning group, and students and staff are spaced as far apart as possible

- physical distance (2m) can be maintained for K-12 staff and for middle and secondary school students when interacting outside of their learning groups;
- physical distance (2m) can be maintained for elementary students when interacting outside of their learning groups when indoors
- No in-person inter-school competitions/performances/events should occur at this time. Where possible, schools should seek virtual alternatives to continue to support these events in a different format.

Physical and Health Education/Outdoor Programs - updated guidance regarding physical contact, high intensity exercise and use of shared equipment.

Create space between students and staff and encourage outdoor activities and programs, as much as possible.

Teachers should plan physical activities that:

- Do not involve prolonged physical contact(i.e. physical contact beyond a brief moment)or crowding. For example, activities such as tag and touch football are low-risk, whereas activities like wrestling or partner dancing should be avoided. Teachers are encouraged to adapt activities wherever possible to reduce physical contact.
- Support physical distancing (2m) outside of learning groups.
- K-12 staff are required to wear masks during PHE/outdoor program classes when they are indoors, unable to maintain physical distancing (2m), and a barrier is not present.

In middle and secondary schools:

For high intensity exercise activities (that significantly increase respiration rates):

- If indoors and the activity is stationary, students and/or fitness equipment (e.g. stationary bikes, treadmills, weight training equipment, etc.) should be spaced 2 meters apart. If indoors and the activity involves movement, ensure there is ample space available to reduce the likelihood of physical contact beyond a brief moment.

- Activities should take place outdoors, or be replaced with low-intensity exercise activities, if the conditions above cannot be met.
- Wearing masks during high-intensity exercise (indoor or outdoors) is left to personal choice, however masks cannot replace the need for 2 metres between students and/or fitness equipment during high intensity stationary exercise indoors
- For low intensity exercise activities, middle and secondary students are required to wear masks when they are indoors, unable to maintain physical distancing (2m), and a barrier is not present.
- Shared equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned and disinfected as per the guidelines in the Cleaning and Disinfecting section of this document.

School Libraries/Learning Commons - updated guidance regarding paper-based products

- 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.

School Sports - updated guidance regarding physical contact, high intensity sports and spectators.

Programs, activities (e.g. intramurals, sports team practices and games) and sports academies can occur if:

- Activities do not involve prolonged physical contact (i.e. physical contact beyond a brief moment). For example, activities such as soccer and touch football are low-risk, whereas activities like wrestling should be avoided; Schools are encouraged to adapt activities/sports as needed to reduce physical contact.
- No spectators are in attendance aside from participants, only the minimum number of individuals required to run the activity should be present.
- Masks are worn by K-12 staff and other adults when they are indoors, unable to maintain physical distancing (2m), and a barrier is not present.

- In elementary schools, physical distancing (2m) can be maintained between learning groups when indoors.

In middle and secondary schools:

For high intensity activities (that result insignificantly increased respiration rates):

- If indoors and the activity is stationary, students and/or fitness equipment (e.g. stationary bikes, treadmills, weight training equipment, etc.) should be spaced 2 meters apart. If indoors and the activity involves movement, ensure there is ample space available to reduce the likelihood of physical contact beyond a brief moment.
- Activities should take place outdoors, or be replaced with low-intensity activities, if the conditions above cannot be met.
- Wearing masks during high-intensity sport activities (indoor or outdoors) is left to personal choice, however masks cannot replace the need for 2 metres between students and/or exercise equipment during high intensity stationary activities indoors.
- Masks are worn by middle and secondary students during low-intensity indoor physical activities where physical distancing (2m) cannot be consistently practiced and a barrier is not present.
- Under Stage 2, physical distancing (2m) can be maintained between learning groups (indoors and outdoors)
- Shared equipment can be used, provided it is cleaned and disinfected as per the guidelines in the Cleaning and Disinfecting section of this document.
- Students should be encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after participating in sport activities and equipment use.
- Disinfect teaching aids (e.g., clipboards, whiteboards, pens, plastic bins for transporting materials etc.)
- Sport activities should be held outside whenever possible.

No in-person inter-school competitions/events should occur at this time.