



VCS On-Campus Safety Protocols

UPDATES WILL OCCUR

K - 12 Overall Objective

To continue working towards the mission and vision of Vernon Christian School by Equipping students for a life of discipleship by providing excellent education in a Christ-Centred community.

These protocols are based on materials developed by the Provincial Health Officer around risk mitigation measures for education providers.

OBJECTIVE: At-School Safety Procedures

- To provide a consistent approach to how we manage in the building
- To provide a consistent approach to how we enforce and monitor physical distancing
- To provide a clear approach to who and how students will be monitored and supervised
- To reduce anxiety in the workplace

Access to the School

Before accessing the school, it is important to be familiar with the following processes:

Perform a Daily Health Check

- **Parents, caregivers, school staff and other adults routinely entering the school should assess themselves daily for key symptoms of illness prior to entering the school.**
- **Parents and caregivers should assess their child daily for key symptoms of illness before sending them to school. If their child is sick or is required to self-isolate as per public health direction, they should not come to school.**
- **For school staff, an active daily health check must be completed in line with the requirements of the Provincial Health Officer's Order on Workplace Safety.**
 - **Other adults in the school should also complete an active daily health check.**

The following resources can be used to support daily health checks for students & staff:

For Students: [K-12 Health Check app](#)

For Staff: [When To Get Tested for COVID-19](#)

Those experiencing symptoms of illness can also use the [BC Self-Assessment Tool](#).

These steps do not replace usual health care. Health questions can be directed to 8-1-1 or your healthcare provider. A full list of COVID-19 symptoms is available from [BCCDC](#). A daily health check is a tool to reduce the likelihood of a person with COVID-19 coming to school when they are infectious.

Stay Home When Required to Self-Isolate

Students, staff or other adults must stay home if they are required to self-isolate.

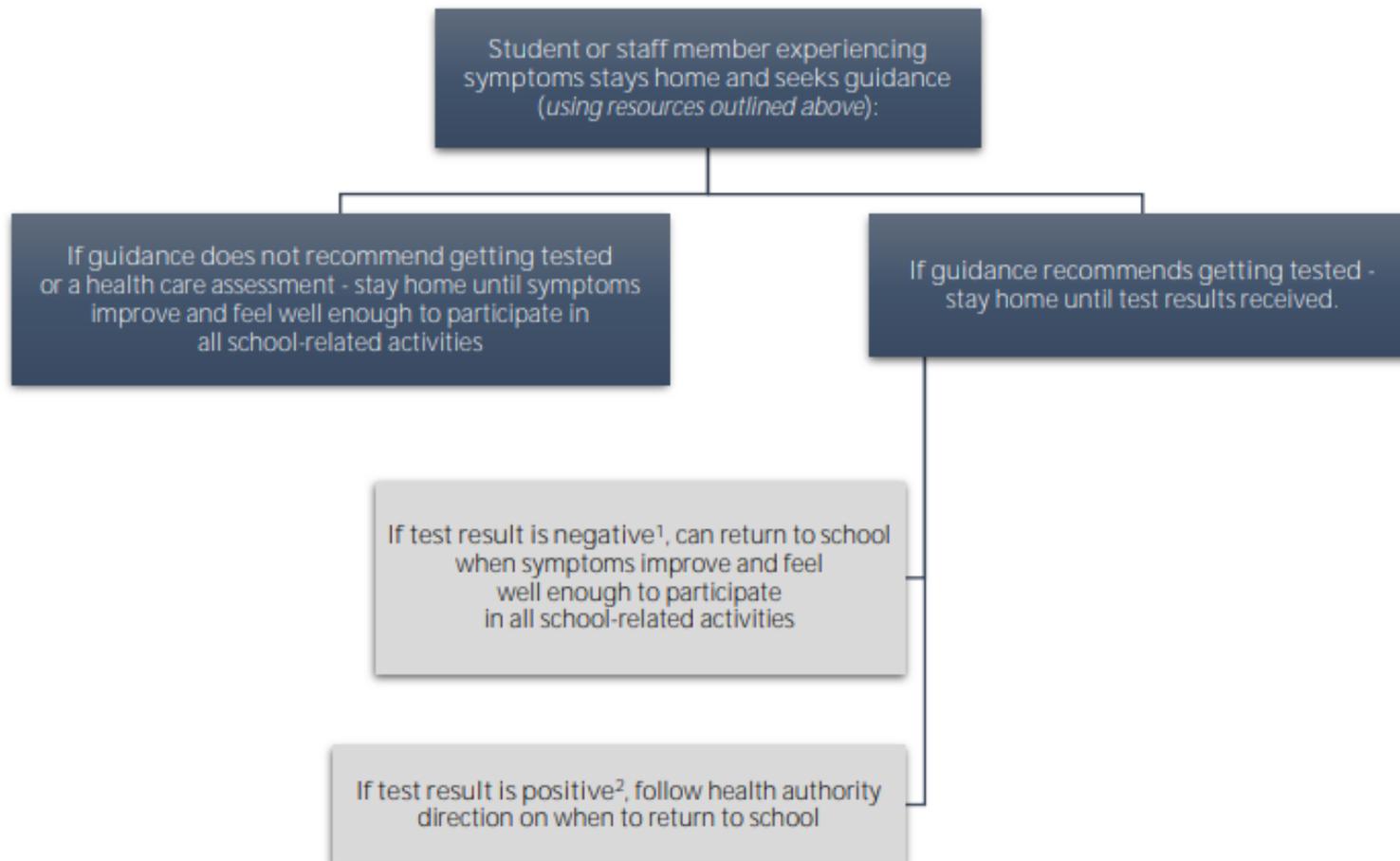
Anyone required to self-isolate will be supported by public health. Additional information is available from [BCCDC](#).

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 Students can use the [K-12 Health Check app](#)
- Staff and other adults can use refer to the BCCDC's [When To Get Tested for COVID-19](#)

For further information on what to do if you are experience COVID-19 symptoms, please refer to the following flowchart:



1. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more. Re-testing is not needed unless the person develops a new illness. [BCCDC](#) has information on receiving negative test results.
2. Public health will contact everyone with a positive test. Visit the [BCCDC website](#) for more information on [positive test results](#).

Further Directives:

- 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.
- Students and staff who experience symptoms consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any new or unexplained symptoms they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.

Parent/Visitor Access & Community Use

VCS will once again leave the front, main doors unlocked for visitor access during school hours. **However:**

- Visitors entering the school should be limited to those supporting activities that are of benefit to student learning and wellbeing (e.g. teacher candidates, meal program volunteers, etc.)
- Visitors will be required to complete a daily health check prior to entering either campus.
- A sign in/sign out process will continue to be used. This process will include individuals' contact information and acknowledgement that they have completed a Daily Health Check.
- Where possible, visitor access will be limited to those areas required for the purpose of the visit (e.g. school office for drop-off/pick-up of items, gymnasium for a sports event, etc.), and parents/caregivers are encouraged to drop-off/pick-up students outside of the school.
- **Parents/caregivers and other visitors should respect others' personal space** while on school grounds, including outside.
- All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school

After hours community use of facilities is allowed in alignment with other health and safety measures:

- Use must occur in line with those activities permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders
- Diligent hand hygiene
- Respiratory etiquette
- Ensuring participants stay home if they are feeling ill
- Where possible, limiting building access to only those areas required for the purpose of the activity

Daily Schedule & Traffic Flow

Start-time (M/W/F)

- Elementary Campus (EC): 8:20am bell
- Secondary Campus (SC): 8:30am bell

Start-time (Tu/Th)

- Elementary & Secondary: 8:55am bell

Add Supervision Times & Lunch times to master schedule

Exit & Entrance Plans

- Secondary Campus:
 - Main entrance opens at 8:00am
- Elementary Campus (supervised by staff):
 - Preschool to Grade 4: External door use in each classroom
 - Grade 5 & 5/6: **West** gym entrance (lakeside)
 - Grade 6: Enter through portable
 - Students' personal items will be kept in the hallway cubbies after start-of-day hand washing/sanitizing is completed
 - Eating only within classroom
- **Main entrances will be open during school hours:**
 - EC & SC students report to main offices if late
 - Guests: report front office for access and sign-in with data collecting

Mid-day Breaks:

- Elementary - Staggered breaks:
 - Break 1:
 - K-2 → OUT 10:20-10:40, EAT 10:40-10:55
 - 3-6 → EAT 10:25-10:40, OUT 10:40-11:00
 - Break 2:
 - K-2 → OUT 11:55-12:25, EAT 12:25-12:40
 - 3-6 → EAT 12:10-12:25, OUT 12:25-12:55
- Secondary - Shared breaks (no cohort requirement):
 - AM Break (Mo/Tu/Th/Fr): 10:05-10:15
 - LUNCH (Mo-Fr): 11:40-12:15

- PM Break: 1:35-1:45
- Wednesday Chapel Schedule:
 - High School: 10:00-10:40
 - Middle School: 10:55-11:35

Wednesday Chapel Schedule:

- High School: 10:00-10:40
- Middle School: 10:55-11:35
- Note: Indoor assemblies/chapels are limited to 50 people or two classes (whichever is larger), in a single space.

Day-End Staggered Dismissal:

- Elementary Campus (K-6): 2:55pm
 - Upon dismissal, students report to parent in parking lot
 - 2:55-3:10: teachers supervise & support dismissal & outdoor transition
- Secondary Campus - 3:05pm

Parking Lot Pick-up Times:

Please follow these drop-off and pick-up times as they apply to you:

Pick-up

- Elementary Campus Students Only: 2:55-3:05pm*
- Secondary Campus Students Only: 3:05-3:15pm*

Mask-Use Policy for Parent Community

Parents must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside either campus.

In the Building

Areas of Occupancy

Teachers will arrange desk areas where students are seated in a way to respect others personal space. Available space will be used to spread people out, both in learning environments and for gatherings and events, where possible.

Elementary Building

Space	Protocol	Procedure	Notes
Outdoor Space	Teachers and EAs will be on site to ensure students' are respecting each other's personal space.	Students will be encouraged to respect each other's personal space.	Outdoor play spaces such as the play field, playground, and paved court outside of the gym are open to use.
Administration Areas	Reserved for VCS staff and volunteers only.	Parents/visitors are encouraged to call ahead to reserve a meeting time with administration.	
Student Classroom Space	Respecting each others' personal space will be promoted while in the classroom and will be monitored by teachers and EAs. There is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted on textbooks, paper, or other paper-based products. Schools can share books or paper-based educational resources with students.		
Common Areas (hallways)	The flow of people in common areas will be managed.	Students will be reminded to respect each others personal space.	
Staff Room	Use available space to spread people out and respect room occupancy limits.	Wash hands before and after preparing food. Surfaces in this room will be cleaned daily by janitorial staff.	Students are not permitted in the staff room.

		Leave door OPEN.	
Restrooms	All washrooms will be open for use. After using the restroom. Wash hands thoroughly.	Will be cleaned daily.	If possible, EA to escort primary students to the restroom, and wait in hallway.
Drink Fountains	Drink fountains will be open for use. Hand washing before and after is emphasized		Staff & students encouraged to bring their own bottles from home.

Secondary Building

Space	Protocol	Procedure	To Remember
Student Classroom Space	Respecting each others' personal space will be promoted while in the classroom and will be monitored by teachers and EAs. There is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted on textbooks, paper, or other paper-based products. Schools can share books or paper-based educational resources with students.		
Common Areas (hallways, Commons-room)	Students can socialize with each other while respecting personal space.		
Staff Room	Use available space to spread people out and respect room occupancy limits.	Wash hands before and after preparing food. Surfaces in this room will be cleaned daily by janitorial staff. Leave door OPEN.	Students are not permitted in the staff room. Staff & students encouraged to bring their own bottles from home.
Administration Areas	Reserved for VCS staff and volunteers only.	Parents/visitors are encouraged to call ahead to reserve a meeting time with	

		administration.	
Restrooms	All washrooms will be open for use. After using the restroom, Wash hands thoroughly.	To limit hallway traffic, one student restroom break per class is permitted. Will be cleaned daily.	
Drink Fountains	Drink fountains will be open for use. Hand washing before and after is emphasized		Staff & students are encouraged to bring their own bottles from home.

Student Care Spaces - Additional Info

Space	Protocol	To Remember
Building	Enter - wash hands or sanitize - every time	Gym: OPEN Changerooms: OPEN EC Kitchen: OPEN SC Food Rm: OPEN SC Autoshop: OPEN
Learning and Playing	Respecting others' personal space will be encouraged. Limit use of frequently-touched items that can't be easily cleaned. Wash hands or sanitize every time upon entering the room.	
Outdoor Spaces	Outdoor exercise time is encouraged. Sharing of sports equipment is permitted. Walks and running on the field are okay while respecting others' personal space.	Playground: OPEN for all to use. Gaga Pit: OPEN for all to use. Sports Court: for all to use.
Eating	Students will eat in their designated rooms or outdoors where permitted.	Do not leave food and food waste 'out in the open'. Pack away or discard in the garbage bins, and then

	<p>Ensure washing of hands before and after eating, for both staff and students.</p> <p>Sharing of food and drinks will not be permitted.</p> <p>Food waste: students and staff must put waste in the designated garbage bins immediately upon finishing lunch/snack time..</p>	<p>wash hands</p> <p>Microwaves will be available.</p>
--	---	---

General Ventilation and Air Circulation

At this time, there is no evidence that a building' ventilation system, in good operating condition, would contribute to the spread of the virus. Good indoor air ventilation alone cannot protect people from exposure to COVID-19; however, it may reduce risk when used in addition to other preventive measures.

- The VCS maintenance team will ensure that heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are regularly maintained and in good working order.
- Where possible, opening windows if weather permits and HVAC system function will not be negatively impacted.

Student Management & Hygiene

Hygiene

Hand washing is one of the best ways to minimize the risk of infection. Proper hand washing helps prevent the transfer of infectious material from the hands to other parts of the body, particularly the eyes, nose, and mouth or to other surfaces that are touched. If a sink is not available (eg. when entering the school at the start of the day), alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be provided. Students will be encouraged to wash hands frequently but especially:

- Upon entering the school and before leaving at the end of the day
- Immediately after sneezing, coughing, using a tissue
- Immediately after using the toilet
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- When moving between different learning environment (eg. outdoor-indoor transitions)

- Before and after eating, drinking, food preparation, handling contact lenses, etc

**REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.
WASH YOUR HANDS.**

- 1**
Wet hands with warm water
- 2**
Apply soap
- 3**
For at least 20 seconds, make sure to wash:
- 4**
Rinse well
- 5**
Dry hands well with paper towel
- 6**
Turn off tap using paper towel

Specific areas to wash:

- palm and back of each hand
- between fingers
- under nails
- thumbs

Contact information:
 1-833-784-4397 | @canada.ca/coronavirus | phac.info.aspc@canada.ca

Public Health Agency of Canada / Agence de la santé publique du Canada | Canada

Students may bring their own sanitizer or plain soap if they are on the list authorized by Health Canada or have a medical condition that requires specialized soaps. (See the [List of Hand Sanitizers Authorized by Health Canada](#) for products that have met Health Canada’s requirements and provide details to the office.)

Physical Distancing & Space Arrangement

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 VCS will implement to help create space between people and to support students and staff in returning to school:

- Remind students and staff about respecting others personal space.

- Use available space to spread people out, both in learning environments and for gatherings and events, where possible.
- Implement strategies that prevent crowding at pick-up and drop-off times.
- Take students outside more often, where and when possible.
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways and around lockers, to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.

Personal Protective Equipment:

Non-Medical Masks and Face Coverings

Masks continue to be required by all staff, students and visitors in schools and on buses, based on the BCCDC's identified benefits of wearing masks:

- Masks have a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19, by helping to stop the spread of droplets from a person's mouth and nose when talking, laughing, yelling, singing, coughing, or sneezing.
- Masks provide protection to the person wearing them and to those around them.
- Masks complement and build on the other safety measures in schools. They work best when everyone who can wear a mask is wearing one.
- Mask requirements in K-12 schools are similar to requirements in other indoor public spaces (e.g., shopping malls, grocery stores, recreation centres, post-secondary institutions, public transit, etc.).

Updated Exceptions for Staff, Students, and Visitors

- If the person is unable to wear a mask because of
 - A psychological, behavioural or health condition, or a physical, cognitive, or mental impairment, or
 - They are unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person.
- Strategies/options to support those with exemptions include:
 - Can the person wear a [different type of mask](#), or a face shield (without a mask)?
 - If the issue relates to having to wear a mask all day, can the person wear a mask during face-to-face classroom activities and hallway transitions but be able to take the mask off while working alone at their desk/workstation?
 - Can they use existing opportunities to remove masks more often, like spending breaks outdoors when the weather allows?

We will need to re-authorize mask exemptions in order to comply with the new PHO standards. Please contact the Principal at your child's campus for a link to the Mask Exemption Form.

Further directives

- Students are encouraged to bring their own approved, non-medical mask to use.
- VCS will make available disposable, non-medical masks in the event that students forget theirs at home.

VCS will support student mask use through positive and inclusive approaches. VCS does not require a health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor's note) to determine if a person does not tolerate a mask.

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 masks**, except for those communicating using lip-reading, when visual facial cues are essential, or when people may be unable to wear a mask. Clear masks that cover the nose and mouth are another option when visual communication is necessary.

[Guide: How to Wear a Face Mask](#)

If Student Develops Symptoms at School:

Staff must:

- Immediately separate the symptomatic student from others in a supervised area.
- Provide the student with a non-medical mask if they don't have one. Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene.
- Avoid touching the student's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva). If you do, practice diligent hand hygiene.
- Contact the student's parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible.
- Where possible, maintain a distance of 2 metres from the ill student. If not possible, staff may wear a mask if available and tolerated.
- Once the student is picked up, practice diligent hand hygiene.
- Workers responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the student was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).

Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should not return to school until they have been assessed by a health-care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved.

Safety for Staff

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 VCS will implement to help create space between people and to support students and staff in returning to school:

- Remind fellow staff about respecting others' personal space.
- Use available space to spread people out, both in staff only environments and for gatherings and events, where possible.
- Avoid crowding in shared spaces (eg. staff rooms).
- Take students outside more often, where and when possible.
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways and around lockers, to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through.

Hygiene:

- Janitorial staff will ensure that hand washing supplies are available at all times (eg. soap, paper towels and, if needed, alcohol-based hand sanitizer).
- Follow handwashing signage that is posted at each washing station and wash hands frequently.

Personal Protective Equipment:

Masks/Face Shields

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.

Updated Exceptions for Staff, Students, and Visitors

- If the person is unable to wear a mask because of
 - A psychological, behavioural or health condition, or a physical, cognitive, or mental impairment, or
 - They are unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person.
- Strategies/options to support those with exemptions include:
 - Can the person wear a [different type of mask](#), or a face shield (without a mask)?
 - If the issue relates to having to wear a mask all day, can the person wear a mask during face-to-face classroom activities and hallway transitions but be able to take the mask off while working alone at their desk/workstation?
 - Can they use existing opportunities to remove masks more often, like spending breaks outdoors when the weather allows?

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.

Further Directives

- People providing these services at VCS 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 at VCS 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.
- VCS does not require a health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor's note) to confirm if staff or visitors cannot tolerate a mask.

[Guide: How to Wear a Mask](#)

If Staff Member Develops Symptoms at Work

Staff should go home as soon as possible.

If unable to leave immediately:

- Symptomatic staff should separate themselves into an area away from others.
- Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.
- Use a tissue or mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait to be picked up.
- Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the staff member was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).
- Staff members who develop symptoms are expected to receive a COVID-19 test from the local public health authority.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should not return to school until they have been assessed by a health-care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved.

School Cleaning & Disinfecting

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. VCS will be cleaned and disinfected by the janitorial staff in accordance with the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings.

This includes:

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises, and cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, at least once in a 24-hour period. (See Frequently Touched Surfaces section below for examples of frequently touched surfaces.)
- Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty.
- Use common, commercially-available detergents and disinfectant products and closely follow the instructions on the label.
- Empty garbage containers daily.
- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning blood or body fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine). Wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves.

Frequently Touched Surfaces

Frequently touched surfaces include:

- Items used by larger numbers of students and staff, including doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, water fountains, faucet handles, toilet handles.
- 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, playdough, etc.) can be used, if hand hygiene is practiced before and after use. Carpets and rugs (e.g. in Kindergarten and StrongStart classes) can also be used.

There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. Laminated or glossy paper-based products (eg. children's books or magazines) and items with plastic covers (e.g. DVDs) can be contaminated if handled by a person with COVID-19; however, the risk is low. There is no need for these items to be cleaned and disinfected or quarantined for any period of time, or for hand hygiene to be practiced before or after use.

Transportation

Buses

- Bus drivers 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) on school buses except while driving.

- Students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear non-medical masks or face coverings when they are on the bus. Students in Grades K to 3 are encouraged to wear a non-medical mask or face covering on school buses but are not required to do so - mask wearing remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students, and their choices must be respected.
 - Non-medical masks or face coverings should be put on before loading.
- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school (see the Daily Health Check section for more information). If a child is sick, they must not take the bus or go to school.
- Students should clean their hands before and after taking the bus.
- Spread passengers out if empty seats are available.
- Open windows when the weather permits.

Carpooling

Personal or school-related:

- Spread out vehicle occupants as much as possible.
- Travel with the same people whenever possible.
- Open windows when the weather allows.
- Clean hands before and after trips.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly.

For carpooling related to school activities, students, staff and other adults must follow the mask requirements outlined in the Personal Protective Equipment section. For personal carpooling, as per public health recommendations, people 9 and older are encouraged to wear masks while carpooling (masks are not suggested if carpooling with members of the same household).

Vaccines

Public health strongly encourages all eligible students and staff to be fully vaccinated (i.e., receive 2 doses) against COVID-19 to protect themselves and those around them including those who are not eligible to be vaccinated.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, including where to get immunized, please visit [ImmunizeBC](https://www.immunizebc.ca/).

Helpful Resources:

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

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

[COVID-19: Return to School](#)