



# School District 49

## Communicable Disease Plan

Updated August 31, 2022

*This plan was created based on the public health guidance developed by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Indigenous rightsholders, educational partners, including provincial district and school leaders, teachers, support staff and parents.*

### **Environmental Measures**

#### Ventilation and air exchange

- The School District will continue to ensure all mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) are operated and maintained as per standards and specifications and are working properly
- The School District will continue to ensure that all filters on mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning are in good working order
- When fans are used, they should be used in ventilated spaces and air movement should be from high to low to avoid horizontal cross breeze
- Windows can be open when weather permits, and HVAC systems functions are not negatively impacted
- If there is an Extreme Heat Event or wildfire smoke presence, we will refer to BCCDC planning documents to help determine risk mitigation strategies
- Schools with recycled/recirculated air systems have upgraded their current filter to MERV 13 where possible or have identified mitigation efforts

#### Cleaning and Disinfecting

- The School District will ensure that frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected 1x per day. Surfaces that are touched by fewer people are cleaned 1x/day and general cleaning occurs in line with regular practices
- The site supervisor will ensure that surfaces a person's body fluids have contacted after the person has displayed symptoms of illness are cleaned and disinfected

### **Administrative Measures**

#### Health awareness

- School administrators should ensure that staff, other adults entering the school, parents, caregivers, and students are aware that they should not come to school if they are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities. School administrators can support this practice by communicating the importance of everyone doing health checks.

- A health check means a person regularly checking to ensure that they or their child are not experiencing symptoms of illness that would limit their ability to participate fully in regular activities before coming to school.

#### Illness practices/ What to do if when sick

- Staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 should follow the guidance of the BCCDC website. They can return to work when they no longer need to self-isolate as symptoms have improved and they are well enough to participate in regular activity.

#### What to do when sick at School/Work

- School administrators should have established procedures for students and staff who become sick while at school/work that include:
  - having non-medical masks available for those who choose to wear them,
  - planning for student or staff to go home as soon as possible,
  - have space available for students and staff to wait until they can be picked up,
  - Cleaning/disinfecting surfaces which the persons' bodily fluids may have been in contact with while they were ill.
  - Requesting that the person stay home until symptoms have improved and they felt well enough to participate in school related activity.

#### Community Use of Schools

- It is the School District's responsibility to ensure user groups have a Communicable Disease Plan and community use of schools is aligned with related public health guidance, recommendations and Orders

### **Personal Measures**

#### Masks

- The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice for staff, students and visitors. A person's choice should be supported and respected.
- Schools should continue to have non-medical masks on hand for those who have forgotten theirs but would like to wear one

#### Hand Hygiene

- Site supervisors along with district support, are responsible for maintaining and stocking hand cleaning facilities throughout the school
- Staff should assist younger students with hand hygiene as needed and promote the importance of diligent hand hygiene to staff and students
- Handwashing should be encouraged to be practiced frequently

#### Respiratory Etiquette

- Cough and sneeze into elbows or a tissue
- Throw away used tissue and immediately preform hand hygiene

- Refrain from touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hand
- Refrain from sharing food, drinks, unwashed utensils, cigarettes or vaping devices.

#### Personal Space

- Staff and students should be encouraged to respect others personal space.

### **Supportive School Environment**

#### Personal Preventive Practices

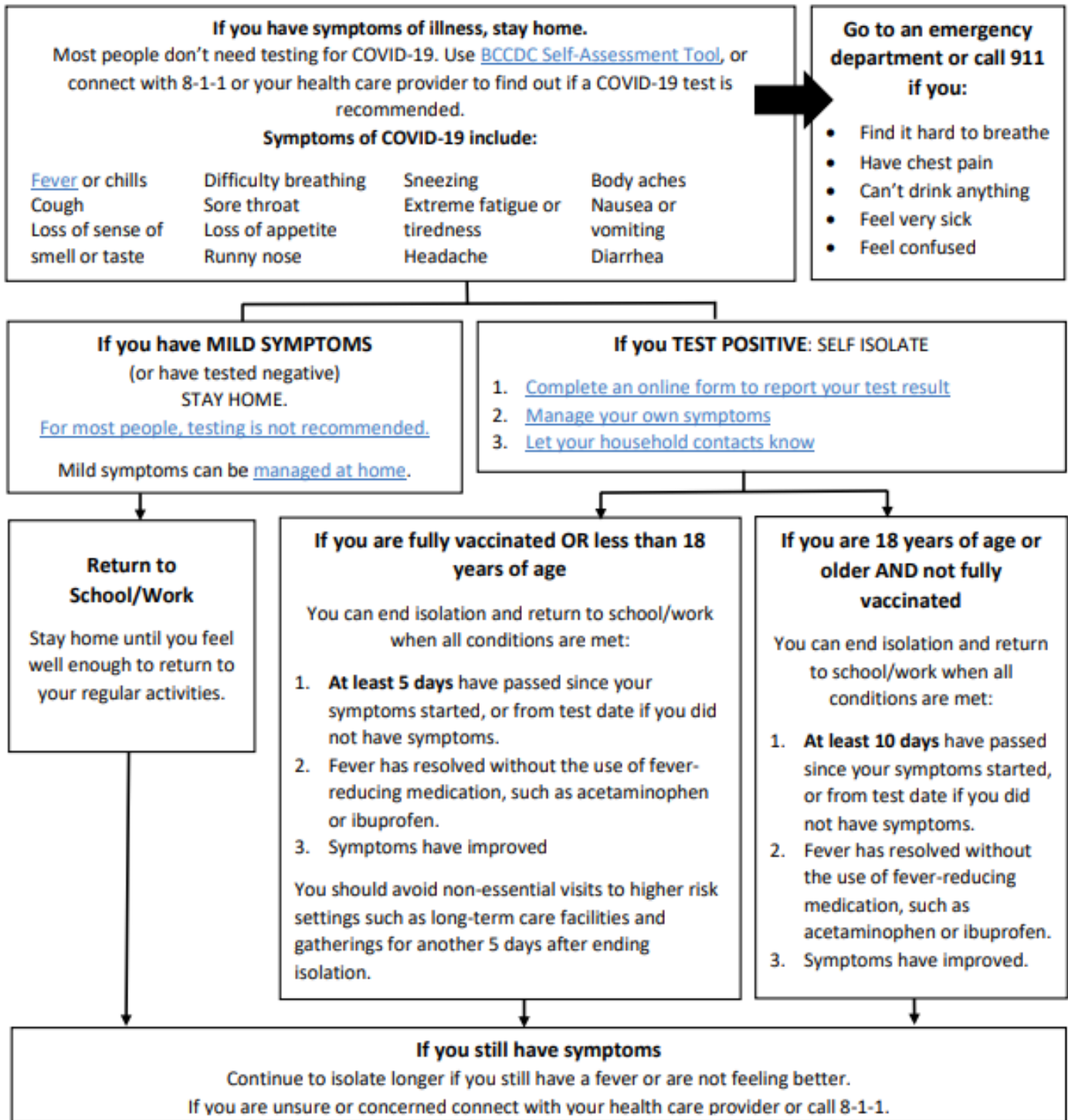
- The site supervisors are responsible for routinely supporting students to practice personal prevention measures like hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

#### Positive and Inclusive Approaches

- Schools will continue to support students' personal prevention practices through positive and inclusive approaches, and not punitive or enforcement activities that exclude students from fully participating in school or that could result in a stigma

#### Communicating and Protecting Personal Privacy

- Medical Health officer play the lead role in determining if when and how to communicate information regarding increased communicable disease activity within a school.



**What to do if someone is sick in your household:**

You can continue to attend school if someone in your household is sick and/or self-isolating as long as you do not have any symptoms of illness and feel well. This includes if they have tested positive for COVID-19. Ensure you closely monitor yourself (or your child) for symptoms of illness and stay home if you feel unwell. The best way to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. Vaccines are available for anyone ages 5 and up. Register now at: [Getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca](http://Getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca)