

	<p style="text-align: center;">Evergreen Independent School <i>Communicable Disease Plan 2021-22</i></p>
<p>Evidence-Based Approach</p>	<p>The school environment is essential for the healthy development of the whole child, as it provides the opportunity for peer-to-peer interaction, emotional support, and social-emotional development in addition to academic growth. Evergreen’s efforts to ensure the safe continuation of in-class learning reflect the best practices in health, safety and exposure control measures from the <u>Provincial Health Authority, BC CDC and BC Ministry of Education</u>.</p> <p>Evergreen will continue to align its Safety Plan with best practices and will update it as necessary in accordance with Ministry and Provincial Health Authority guidance.</p>
<p>Key Principles and Communication</p>	<p>All schools are to adhere to the standards, guidelines and protocols from the <u>BC Centre for Disease Control (Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K12 Schools)</u> and <u>WorkSafeBC</u>. In accordance with these directives, Evergreen will communicate recommendations and Orders from regional Medical Health Officers and the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), including COVID-19 resources.</p>
<p>Supportive School Environment</p>	<p>There is no substitute for in-class instruction. In fact, the school environment often decreases feelings of isolation, provides a context for social and emotional development, and affords access to support they cannot access at home. It is integral to students’ overall health.</p> <p>Evergreen is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asking staff to model appropriate practices, ● Sharing reliable information from the provincial health authority and BC Centre for disease control, ● Promoting safety through use of visual aids and signage, ● Using positive, inclusive, and supportive approaches to engaging students in preventative practices, ● Implementing health and safety measures that promote inclusion of students with disabilities/diverse abilities, ● Reinforcing the importance of personal prevention measures, such as hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, and ● Developing awareness and respect for personal space, and the distance at which someone feels comfortable being next to another person.
<p>Personal Measures</p>	<p>Daily Health Checks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff, parents and students are responsible for the completion of a Daily Health Check, screening for symptoms of illness.

	<p>What to Do When Sick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and students must stay home when they are sick or have symptoms of illness, and • They will be directed to the appropriate resource if they develop symptoms, such as the BC Self-Assessment Tool app. <p>Symptoms Develop at School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a staff member, student, or other person develops symptoms of illness while at school, processes are in place to isolate and support until that person can go home. <p>Returning to School After Illness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A doctor’s note is not required to confirm the health status, beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual practice. However, any person will only be able to return to school when they have been symptom-free for the required period. <p>Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand cleaning stations are available and accessible throughout the school and are maintained in working order.
<p>Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures</p>	<p>Evergreen is committed to ensuring that our infection prevention and exposure control measures (also known as communicable disease measures) are in place to reduce the spread of communicable diseases like COVID-19.</p> <p>Control measures are more effective where there is a consistent grouping of people, and multiple measures of various effectiveness can be routinely implemented, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illness policies for students and staff, • Reinforcement and adoption of effective personal practices (e.g., hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette), and • Environmental measures (e.g., enhanced cleaning and disinfecting practices, increased ventilation).
<p>Mental Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>As a result of the pandemic, we know that students, educators, staff and administrators are living with anxiety, stress and other challenges to mental health. Evergreen is committed to supporting mental health and well-being through school-wide mental health prevention and promotion programs.</p> <p>At the school and classroom level, this includes educational programs designed to support students to build resiliency, coping skills and knowledge that contribute to their overall wellbeing.</p>
<p>Vaccines</p>	<p>Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and communities. The vaccines used in B.C. remain highly effective against</p>

	<p>COVID-19, including among variants of concern (Source: BC CDC, August 24, 2021)</p> <p>Public health strongly encourages all eligible students and staff to be fully vaccinated (i.e., receive 2 doses and boosters) against COVID-19 to protect themselves and those around them.</p>
<p>Personal Protective Equipment</p>	<p>Masks</p> <p>All students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are required to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses. Exceptions to the mask policy include any person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is under the age of 5, ● Cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioral reasons, and/or ● Is unable to put on or remove a mask without assistance. <p>Masks may be temporarily removed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it, ● If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ engaging in high-intensity physical activity, ○ if a person is eating or drinking, ○ If a person is behind a barrier, and/or ○ while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability such as hearing impairment, where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important. <p>Non-medical masks are available for students or parents who have forgotten theirs.</p>
<p>Learning Groups and Physical Distancing</p>	<p>Learning Groups and Physical Distancing</p> <p>Evergreen will focus on creating space between people by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Managing flow of people in common areas such as hallways and cloakrooms to minimize crowding, ● Reducing crowding at pick-up and drop-off times, ● Reminding students and staff about respecting others’ personal space, using visual supports, signage and prompts, ● Using available space to spread people out where possible, and ● Taking students outside as much as possible.
<p>Visitor Access</p>	<p>Visitors are expected to adhere Evergreen’s communicable disease plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completion of a daily health check, and refraining from entering the school if they have any symptoms of illness, ● Signing in and out,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wearing a non-medical mask when inside any and all buildings on school property, ● Make appointments when wishing to meet with staff, and ● Limiting visitation to the areas required for the purpose of the visit, such as the school office for drop-off/pick-up of items, or classrooms for teacher conferences. <p>Parents/caregivers should be encouraged to drop-off/pick-up students outside of the school.</p>
Staff Gatherings	<p>Staff gatherings and events occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial, and federal public health recommendations and Orders. This includes using the space available to spread people out as much as possible and preventing overcrowding.</p>
Daily Health Check Illness and Self-Assessment Protocols	<p>Daily Health Check</p> <p>Staff, parents, and students will be reminded of their responsibilities to complete a Daily Health Check and are provided with resources to support the process.</p> <p>Parents and caregivers are responsible for assessing their children daily before sending them to school.</p> <p>If a student, staff or other adult is sick, they <u>must</u> not enter the school.</p> <p>Staying Home, Self-Isolation and Illness</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Students, staff or other adults are asked to 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.</p> <p>If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They will be given a mask and separated from classmates or colleagues, ● Children will be supervised and cared for, ● The student's parent or guardian will be contacted, and asked to have their child picked up as soon as possible, ● Staff will be asked to go home as soon as possible, and ● Staff will clean and disinfect the areas the person used. <p>The following resources provide guidance regarding specific symptoms of illness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents/caregivers and students can use the K-12 Health Check app ● Staff and other adults can use the BCCDC's When to get tested for COVID-19 guidance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online Self-Assessment Tool, call 8-1-1 or their health care provider <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Students, staff, or other adults must stay home if required to self-isolate.</p>
Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette	<p>Hand Hygiene</p> <p>Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is effective, and water temperature does impact the effectiveness of soap and water washing.</p> <p>Evergreen provides regular opportunities for students to practice hand hygiene, and is encouraged upon school entry, before/after breaks and eating, using the washroom, and when using shared equipment.</p> <p>Respiratory Etiquette</p> <p>Students and staff will practice respiratory etiquette by coughing and sneezing into their elbow, sleeve, or a tissue, and immediately performing hand hygiene.</p>
Personal Items	<p>Staff and students can continue to bring personal items to school. However, they are strongly discouraged from sharing items that come in contact with the mouth (e.g., food, drinks, unwashed utensils, wind instruments).</p>
Carpooling/Bus Transportation	<p>Carpooling</p> <p>When carpooling, best practices include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spreading out vehicle occupants as much as possible, Traveling with the same people whenever possible, Opening windows when the weather allows, Clean hands before and after trips, and Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly. <p>Bus Transportation to Field Trips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that contracted buses and drivers to follow COVID protocols Daily health check has been performed prior to arriving at school If a child has symptoms of illness, they must not go to school Students clean their hands before and after taking the bus Students spread out as much as possible Windows are opened when the weather permits

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bus drivers and students practice respiratory etiquette while on the bus ● Active transportation such as walking is encouraged when possible
Cleaning and Disinfecting	<p>Cleaning Frequency</p> <p>Evergreen will ensure general cleaning of the premises, including the disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, at least once in a 24-hour period. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cleaning and disinfecting any surface that is visibly dirty ● Emptying garbage containers daily <p>Practices are in place to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces more frequently, and other general cleaning, such as wiping down desks after lunch, occurs in line with regular practices.</p> <p>The requirements for daily cleaning and disinfecting outlined above do not apply to spaces/equipment that are not being used by students, staff, or visitors.</p> <p>Limiting access to water fountains is no longer required, but students/staff are encouraged to practice hand hygiene before and after using a water fountain.</p> <p>Teachers and staff will follow School policies for cleaning bodily fluids, if necessary, including wearing gloves.</p>
Ventilation and Air Circulation	<p>All HVAC systems are operated and maintained as per standards and specifications and are working properly. In addition, Evergreen will move activities outdoors when possible (for example, lunch, classes, physical activity) and consider moving classrooms outside when space and weather permit.</p>
Emergency and Evacuation Drills	<p>Evergreen will continue to practice various emergency procedures, including school fire evacuation drills, lockdown drills, etc.</p>
Fundraisers and Community Use of Facilities	<p>Evergreen will continue to offer fundraisers, which will be implemented with attention to the guidelines outlined in this document. Fundraisers involving the sale of food items will align with the Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools.</p> <p>Community use of school facilities, including the Pavilion, will be aligned with related public health guidance, recommendations, and Orders.</p>
Junior and regular Kindergarten	<p>Evergreen will provide information about communicable disease prevention measures as part of communications to students and their families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents/caregivers must follow guidelines for visitors. ● Opportunities will be provided for Jr/Kindergarten students to practice social distancing, and proper hand washing. ● 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,

	<p>playdough, etc.) can be used, if hand hygiene is practiced before and after use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carpets and rugs will be used, but cleaned on a regular basis.
<p>Curriculum, Programs, Field Trips, Fundraisers and other Activities</p>	<p>Students will participate in Music and Physical education programs, with additional safety measures in place.</p> <p>Masks are not required outdoors or when doing activities that cannot be performed while wearing a mask.</p> <p>Physical Education</p> <p>Students are encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using equipment (e.g., before and after a sports game using a shared ball).</p> <p>Students are asked to follow proper respiratory etiquette at all times.</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Students must continue to wear masks while singing, except when outdoors where they will follow social distancing protocols.</p> <p>Shared equipment will be cleaned and disinfected, and students encouraged to wash their hands before and after use.</p> <p>Students will be asked not to share equipment that touches the mouth, like an instrument mouthpiece or mouthguard, unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses.</p> <p>Field Trips</p> <p>Local field trips are permitted in accordance with existing school policies, and as per relevant local, regional, Provincial, and Federal public health.</p> <p>Additional measures specific to field trips include transportation guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practice hygiene before and after trips, ● Students spread out on the bus, ● Windows open when weather allows, and ● Wearing masks while on the bus. <p>Playgrounds</p> <p>There is no current evidence of COVID-19 transmission in playground environments. This includes sand, water and other outdoor equipment. Playgrounds are a safe environment.</p> <p>Evergreen will ensure appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play and recesses.</p> <p>School clubs and Co-Curricular Activities</p>

	<p>Clubs and Co-curricular activities will occur in alignment with the guidelines in this document.</p> <p>Fundraisers</p> <p>Evergreen will continue to offer fundraisers that can be implemented in line with the guidelines outlined in this document.</p>
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Resources:

[BC Centre for Disease Control: COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools Health and Safety Checklist](#)

[BC Centre for Disease Control: Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools \(Oct 1, 2021\)](#)

[BC K-12 Education Recovery Plan: Guidelines for Boards of Education and Independent School Authorities for the 2021-22 School Year \(August 24, 2021\)](#)

[Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings \(Oct 1, 2021\)](#)