



Evergreen Independent School
Communicable Disease Prevention Plan 2021-22

Evidence-Based Approach	<p>School is essential for supporting the healthy development of the whole child. The classroom environment supports peer-to-peer interaction, and social-emotional wellness and development. This plan outlines the health, safety and exposure control measures that are in place and reflect best practice from the Provincial Health Authority, BC CDC, and BC Ministry of Education for a return to in-class instruction in 2021-2022.</p> <p>The <i>Communicable Disease Plan</i> addresses topics such as mask use, hand hygiene, vaccinations, regional responses, cleaning, ventilation, gatherings, extracurricular activities, meals and sports.</p> <p>Evergreen will continue to align its Safety Plan with best practices and will update it as needed in accordance with Ministry and Provincial Health Authority guidance.</p>
Key Principles and Communication	<p>All schools must adhere to the standards, guidelines and protocols from the BC Centre for Disease Control and WorkSafeBC, and describe the enactment of those guidelines in a communicable disease plan.</p> <p>The communicable disease guidelines outlined in this document have been developed to complement guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control (Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K12 Schools) and WorkSafeBC. Evergreen will clearly and consistently communicate guidance, recommendations and Orders from regional Medical Health Officers and the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), including COVID-19 resources.</p>
Supportive School Environment	<p>There is no substitute for in-class instruction. It provides students with face-to-face teacher-led learning, peer engagement, supports social and emotional development, and decreases feelings of isolation. School also provides many students access to supports they can't get at home and is integral to their 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 the use of visual aids and signage, ● Using positive, inclusive, and supportive approaches to engaging students in preventative practices, and ● implementing health and safety measures that promote inclusion of students with disabilities/diverse abilities <p>Strategies are in place to support students to practice personal prevention measures such as hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (e.g., signage, included in morning announcements, etc.). Personal Space Strategies are in place to encourage staff and students to consider and respect other's personal space. Personal space is the distance from which a person feels comfortable being next to another person.</p>
Personal Measures	<p>Daily Health Checks Staff, parents and students are still required to complete their Daily Health Check.</p> <p>Stay Home When Sick / What to Do When Sick Staff and students are reminded to stay home when they are unwell, or have received a positive test for a communicable infection.</p> <p>Symptoms Develop at School</p>

	<p>When a student develops symptoms at school, parents/guardians or emergency contacts are notified to pick the student up from school. The student will be asked to wear a mask, and will be supervised in the office or other area, away from peers, until they can be picked up.</p> <p>Returning to School After Illness Health care provider notes (i.e., a doctor’s note) are not required to confirm the health status of any individual, beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual practice.</p> <p>After a positive COVID test, students and staff may return to school when all three of these conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 5 days have passed since symptoms started, or from the date of a positive test if no symptoms were present. 2. Fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication. 3. Symptoms have improved. <p>Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette Hand cleaning facilities are available and accessible throughout the school and are well maintained.</p>
Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures	<p>Evergreen is committed to ensuring that infection prevention and exposure control measures (also known as communicable disease measures) are in place to create a safe environment and reduce the spread of communicable diseases like COVID-19. Control measures are more effective when 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).
Mental Health and Wellbeing	<p>As a result of the pandemic, we know students, educators, staff and administrators are living with anxiety, stress and other mental health needs. 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>
Vaccines	<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 COVID-19, including among variants of concern (Source: BC CDC, August 24, 2021). 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.</p>
Personal Protective Equipment	<p>Masks While masks are no longer required for general use in the school, excepting in instances where staff, students or parents are experiencing symptoms, masks are welcome. Non-medical masks are available for students or parents who have forgotten theirs.</p>
Learning Groups and Physical Distancing	Learning Groups and Physical Distancing

	Physical distancing is no longer required, but Evergreen Independent School will continue to support the personal space preferences of staff and students.
Visitor Access	Visitors are asked to follow the school's communicable disease plan, including completing a daily health check and not entering the school if they are sick. A sign in/sign out process is in place for all visitors and staff who are not typically onsite.
Staff Gatherings	Staff gatherings and events occur in line with those permitted as per relevant local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and Orders.
Daily Health Check Illness and Self-Assessment Protocols	<p>Daily Health Check Staff, parents and students are reminded of their responsibilities to complete a Daily Health Check and are provided with resources as required. Parents and caregivers are responsible for assessing their children daily before sending them to school.</p> <p>Staying Home, Self-Isolation and Illness 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. 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 illness in schools.</p> <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>
Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette	<p>Hand Hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washing hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the most effective method. The water temperature does not change the effectiveness of washing hands with plain soap and water. • Evergreen provides regular opportunities for students to practice hand hygiene. • Handwashing will be encouraged upon school entry and before/after breaks and eating, using washroom and using frequently touched shared equipment. <p>Respiratory Etiquette 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	Staff and students can continue to bring personal items to school, and will be encouraged to refrain from sharing any items that come in contact with the mouth, such as food, drinks, unwashed utensils, wind instruments, etc.
Carpooling/Bus Transportation	Bus Transportation to Field Trips With respect to school travel, Evergreen will adhere to guidance, recommendations and orders from regional Medical Health Officers and the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), including COVID-19 resources.
Cleaning and Disinfecting	<p>Cleaning Frequency The school will ensure general cleaning and 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 intermittently through the day.</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>Students and staff are encouraged to practice hand hygiene frequently, and teachers and staff will follow School policies for cleaning bodily fluids, if necessary, including the wearing of gloves.</p>
Ventilation and Air Circulation	All HVAC systems are operated and maintained as per standards and specifications, and are working properly. In order to enhance school ventilation Evergreen will open windows, hold activities outdoors when possible, and consider moving classrooms outside when space and weather permit.
Emergency and Evacuation Drills	Evergreen will continue to practice various emergency procedures, including school fire evacuation drills, lockdown drills, etc.
Fundraisers and Community Use of Facilities	Evergreen will continue to offer fundraisers, implemented in line with the guidelines outlined in this document and will follow school policy. Fundraisers involving the sale of food items will align with the Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools. Community use of school facilities, including the Pavilion, will be aligned with related public health guidance, recommendations, and Orders.
Junior and regular Kindergarten	<p>Evergreen will provide information about communicable disease prevention measures as part of communications to students and their families prior to school start.</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, playdough, etc.) can be used, if hand hygiene is practiced before and after use; and ● Carpets and rugs will be used, but cleaned on a regular basis.
Curriculum, Programs, Field Trips, Fundraisers and other Activities	<p>Students will participate in Music and Physical education programs, with additional safety measures in place. Masks are not required outdoors or when doing activities that cannot be performed while wearing a mask.</p> <p>Physical Education Students are encouraged to practice proper hand hygiene before and after using frequently touched pieces of equipment (e.g., before and after a sports game using a shared ball). Students are asked to follow proper respiratory etiquette at all times.</p> <p>Music Students must continue to wear masks while singing, except when outdoors where they will be expected to follow social distancing protocols. Shared equipment will be cleaned and disinfected, and students are encouraged to wash their hands before and after use. 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 Local field trips are permitted in accordance with existing school policies and procedures, and as per relevant local, regional, Provincial, and Federal public health. 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This includes sand, water and other outdoor equipment. Playgrounds are a safe environment. <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: Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools \(April 8, 2022\)](#)

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