

Communicable Disease Prevention Plan - Revised: March 28, 2022

Cedars Christian School

Introduction

The health and safety of staff and students is of primary importance in our work at Cedars Christian School. The purpose of this Communicable Disease Prevention Plan [Plan] is to outline the Cedars-specific application of the [Provincial COVID-19 Safe Schools](#) plan for the 2021-22 (Updated: March 10, 2022); [COVID-19 Protocols for School & District Administrators and Staff](#) (Jan 7, 2022); BC Centre for Disease Control [Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) (March 10, 2022); the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) (March 10, 2022).

Cedars seeks to inform all community members of their roles and responsibilities in promoting and maintaining a safe and healthy school and workplace setting with respect to the prevention of all communicable diseases, including COVID-19. This Plan provides clarity and/or context for some of the health and safety guidance linked above. It is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of all health and safety measures. Staff and parents/caregivers are encouraged to review all of the documents linked above to inform their work and/or decision to have their children return to in-class instruction. Note: Unless otherwise stated, this document outlines health and safety plans in the context of [BC's Response to COVID-19](#).

Although this Plan has been primarily drafted in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and BC's [K-12 Educational Recovery Plan](#) (Aug 24, 2021), the key message of **"Give SPACE - CLEAN with Care"**, and many of the measures outlined below also apply to transmission reduction of *any* communicable disease in a K-12 school context. COVID-19 vaccinations are strongly recommended at this time; however, there is currently no provincial mandate for vaccinations of eligible staff and students. Individuals are encouraged to make an informed choice regarding vaccinations. All members of this community are encouraged to review vaccine information posted on the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) website. A variety of measures are identified in each section of this Plan. Some of these measures have required focus and attention but have, over time and with practice, faded to the background as routine.

Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures for Communicable Diseases

Give SPACE

Public health measures to *reduce transmission* of communicable diseases involve giving one another space by *reducing contact intensity* and *minimizing the number of overall contacts*. This means considering adjustments to the *type* (close/distant) and *duration* (brief/prolonged) of contact and the number of people gathering in a setting at one time.

Specifically, within the K-12 setting of Cedars Christian School, this means:

1. Daily health assessments.

- a. Staff are **required** to complete a [daily health check](#) for illness prior to coming to work. Parents/Caregivers are **required** to assess their child(ren) daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to use one of BC's [Self-Assessment Tools](#) for daily health checks for their child(ren). Staff or Parents/Caregivers that are unsure how to interpret

symptoms are encouraged to use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) or consult with their physician.

- b. Staff and student absences due to illness are to be reported to the main office by phone, email, or by using our school's [online form](#). Individuals are not required to report COVID-positive status.
- c. Health-care provider notes are not required to confirm the health status of staff or students beyond those required to support medical accommodation as per usual (pre-COVID) practices.

2. Staying home and self-isolating when required.

- a. Those with [symptoms](#) of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease are required to stay home.
- b. Additionally, staying at home is required for:
 - i. Those awaiting COVID-19 test results.
 - ii. Those with a positive COVID-19 test result - for a minimum of 5 days (for those fully vaccinated) or 10 days (for those partially or unvaccinated) from the first day you presented symptoms **and** symptoms have resolved **or** as otherwise directed by public health officials.
 - iii. Those returning from travel outside of Canada who are partially or unvaccinated are required to isolate for a minimum of 14 days from the first day you reenter the country. [Requirements vary](#) for fully vaccinated individuals.

3. Going home if you are sick.

- a. *Staff members and students will be sent home if symptomatic.* Students who become sick will wait in a separate, supervised setting until notified parents/caregivers can pick their child up. Students will be provided a non-medical mask if they do not have one and/or given the option to wait outside with a supervisor. Older students (with permission) and staff who become sick are to go home immediately.

4. Respecting others' personal space.

Note: The PHO no longer recommends physical distancing of 2 metres as a communicable disease measure for the K-12 setting. Students, staff, and visitors will be reminded to “*respect others' physical space*”.

- a. *Learning and gathering spaces selected, configured and used to best meet learner needs and good pedagogy.* Consideration will be given to strategies that create space between people.
- b. *Adjusting schedules, staggering breaks, and managing movement.*
 - i. Primary and intermediate breaks will be staggered.
 - ii. High school students will *respect spaces* used by elementary students at times when breaks overlap.
 - iii. Flow of people in common areas and hallways with directional markers to prevent crowding.
- c. *Using outdoors often.* All students will be encouraged to take breaks outside when weather permits. Some learning spaces will be set up outside for K-12 use in good weather.

5. Administrative actions.

- a. *School gatherings and events will be carefully vetted.* Gatherings and events will be permitted in alignment with local, regional, provincial and federal public health recommendations and orders. Consideration will be given to:

- i. Respecting student, staff, and community member comfort levels regarding personal space
- ii. Room occupancy limits and using largest spaces available to allow for people to spread out
- b. School will provide contact information to the public health office, upon official request, to assist in contact tracing in accordance with school policy.
- c. Visitors, parents and caregivers are **not permitted to enter** school buildings if they are required to isolate for any public health reason.
- d. All visitors, parents and caregivers will be required to sign in at the main office and indicate that they have completed a daily health check.
- e. *Staff and student absences due to illness will be monitored closely for potential activity signals.* School closures may be considered based on availability of staff and public health orders implemented to prevent excessive transmission in the school setting.

6. Indoor non-medical masks.

- a. Non-medical masks are offered to students who present COVID-like symptoms at school prior to going home or being picked up by a parent/caregiver.
- b. At this time, masks are required to be worn for a minimum of 14 days in public settings for those who have returned from travel outside of Canada.
- c. Cedars, respect will be shown to students and adults who choose to wear a non-medical mask, and to those who do not.

CLEAN with Care

Environmental cleaning and disinfection, and personal hygiene measures prevent indirect transmission from contaminated surfaces.

Specifically, within the K-12 setting of Cedars Christian School, this means:

1. Regular cleaning and disinfecting.

- a. *Professional, general cleaning and disinfecting **once a day.***
- b. *Targeted, professional cleaning and disinfecting of frequently-touched surfaces **once per day.*** This includes door knobs, light switches, toilet handles, desks, tables, and chairs.
- c. *Routine, staff-initiated classroom cleaning and disinfecting.* Shared equipment will be disinfected after use. Surfaces in shared spaces (elementary electives, high school classrooms) will be cleaned and disinfected between user groups.

2. Practicing hand hygiene.

- a. *Hand washing will take place at all significant transitions,* including: start/end of day, between activities, before and after snacks and outdoor play.
- b. *Rigorous hand washing with soap and water,* hand-sanitizing when necessary. Portable washing stations will be installed and maintained in the cabins without sinks to support hand washing with soap and water as our primary cleaning methodology. Approved alcohol-based hand rub will be made available at main building entrances and in locations where hand washing is not easily accessible.