

Communicable Disease Update

August 25, 2022

Communicable Disease Guidelines for the 2022/23 School Year

The [Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) have been updated in line with updated guidance from [public health](#) and in collaboration with the BC Centre for Disease Control, Indigenous rightsholders and education partners.

This update brings together the previously issued Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings, the K-12 Education Recovery Plan and the COVID-19 Protocols for School & District Administrators and Staff: Management of School-Associated Activity.

The guidelines should be used to inform the development of district and school communicable disease prevention plans.

Public Health Support

While public health no longer recommends schools monitor absenteeism patterns as part of COVID-19 management, schools can contact public health if they have any concerns about communicable disease transmission within the school setting and require additional support. Ministry student attendance reporting requirements through MyEducation BC continue to be in place.

Communicable Disease Guidance for Child Care Settings

The BC Centre for Disease Control has released [Supporting Child Wellness: Public Health Guidance for Communicable Disease \(including COVID-19\) Management in Child Care Settings](#). These guidelines aim to support child care service providers to reduce risk of and manage infections, including COVID-19. Child care providers operating on school grounds can use the [Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) along with these to inform communicable disease prevention planning.

Reminder: Reporting Functional Closures

School districts are reminded to notify the Ministry of Education and Child Care (educ.covid@gov.bc.ca) as soon as possible when considering or implementing a functional closure.

Reminder: Free Personal Protective Equipment at PEAK Health

The Province continues to make additional supplies of certain non-medical protective equipment (e.g., non-medical masks, hand sanitizer, etc.) available to schools and districts at no charge, except for shipping costs. Supplies can be ordered through PEAK Health and shipped directly to your central office or warehouse. The link for the specific PPE available and ordering was previously sent directly to your district contact and remains the same.