

# COVID-19 Safety Plan for: SD8 - <School Name> Brent Kennedy

Employers must develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan. To develop your plan, follow the six-step process described at [COVID-19 and returning to safe operation](#).

This planning tool will guide you through the six-step process. You may use this document, or another document that meets your needs, to document your COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Employers are not required to submit plans to WorkSafeBC for approval but, in accordance with the order of the provincial health officer, this plan must be posted at the worksite, and on the website if there is one. This Safety Plan can also be completed from any mobile device using the COVID-19 Safety Plan app.

## Step 1: Assess the risks at your workplace

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads in several ways. It can spread in droplets when a person coughs or sneezes. It can also spread if you touch a contaminated surface and then touch your face.

The risk of person-to-person transmission increases the closer you come to other people, the more time you spend near them, and the more people you come near.

The risk of surface transmission increases when many people contact the same surface and when those contacts happen over short periods of time.

### Involve workers when assessing your workplace

Identify areas where there may be risks, either through close physical proximity or through contaminated surfaces. The closer together workers are and the longer they are close to each other, the greater the risk.

- We have involved frontline workers, supervisors, and the joint health and safety committee (or worker health and safety representative, if applicable).
- We have identified areas where people gather, such as break rooms, production lines, and meeting rooms.
- We have identified job tasks and processes where workers are close to one another or members of the public. This can occur in your workplace, in worker vehicles, or at other work locations (if your workers travel offsite as part of their jobs).
- We have identified the tools, machinery, and equipment that workers share while working.
- We have identified surfaces that people touch often, such as doorknobs, elevator buttons, and light switches.

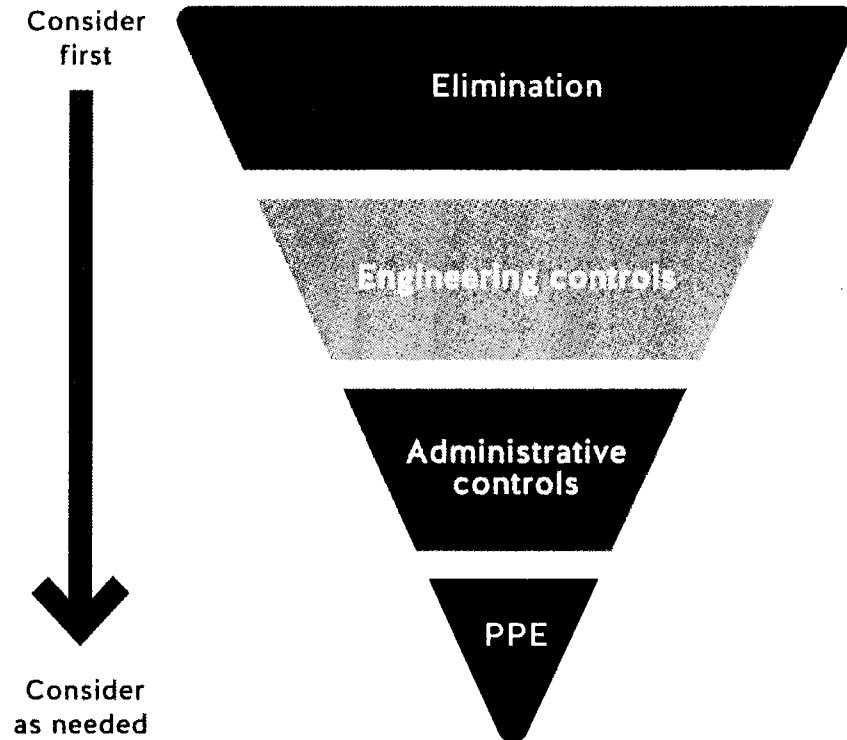
## Step 2: Implement protocols to reduce the risks

Select and implement protocols to minimize the risks of transmission. Look to the following for information, input, and guidance:

- Review industry-specific protocols on [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com) to determine whether any are relevant to your industry. Guidance for additional sectors will be posted as they become available. If protocols are developed specific to your sector, implement these to the extent that they are applicable to the risks at your workplace. You may need to identify and implement additional protocols if the posted protocols don't address all the risks to your workers.
- Frontline workers, supervisors, and the joint health and safety committee (or worker representative).
- Orders, guidance, and notices issued by the provincial health officer and relevant to your industry.
- Your health and safety association or other professional and industry associations.

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Different protocols offer different levels of protection. Wherever possible, use the protocol that offers the highest level of protection. Consider controls from additional levels if the first level isn't practicable or does not completely control the risk. You will likely need to incorporate controls from various levels to address the risk at your workplace.



First level protection (**elimination**) — Limit the number of people in your workplace where possible by implementing work-from-home arrangements, establishing occupancy limits, rescheduling work tasks, or other means. Rearrange work spaces to ensure that workers are at least 2 m (6 ft.) from co-workers, customers, and members of the public.

Second level protection (**engineering controls**) — If you can't always maintain physical distancing, install barriers such as plexiglass to separate people.

Third level protection (**administrative controls**) — Establish rules and guidelines, such as posted occupancy limits for shared spaces, designated delivery areas, cleaning practices, and one-way doors and walkways to keep people physically separated.

Fourth level protection (**PPE**) — If the first three levels of protection aren't enough to control the risk, consider the use of masks. Ensure masks are selected and cared for appropriately and that workers are using masks correctly.

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First level protection (elimination): Limit the number of people at the workplace and ensure physical distance whenever possible

- We have established and posted an occupancy limit for our premises. Limiting the number of people in a workplace is an important way to ensure physical distancing is maintained. Some sectors may have requirements for occupancy limits prescribed by the Provincial Health Officer. For other employers, an occupancy limit that provides at least 5 square metres of unencumbered floor space per person (workers and patrons) may provide a sensible approach for determining maximum occupancy.
- In order to reduce the number of people at the worksite, we have considered work-from-home arrangements, virtual meetings, rescheduling work tasks, and limiting the number of customers and visitors in the workplace.
- We have established and posted occupancy limits for common areas such as break rooms, meeting rooms, change rooms, washrooms, and elevators.
- We have implemented measures to keep workers and others at least 2 metres apart, wherever possible. Options include revising work schedules and reorganizing work tasks.

## Measures in place

### District Level:

- Large assemblies of staff and students are not allowed.
- Physical meetings are only to occur when virtual options are not feasible. \*
- Room occupancies are to be established for common areas by the local JHSC. \*
- Work from Home opportunities and revising work schedules/tasks is not feasible within the Education Sector once students are attending in-class learning.
- Students will be grouped into learning groups as per BC CDC Guidelines.
- Parents, Guardians and other Guests to schedule any site visits with the Principal.

### Site Level:

School assemblies done virtually  
Staff Meetings done virtually.  
Signage posted for vacancy limits in all common areas.  
Learning groups are separated at all times  
Must make an appt to enter the school.

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## Second level protection (engineering): Barriers and partitions

- We have installed barriers where workers can't keep physically distant from co-workers, customers, or others.
- We have included barrier cleaning in our cleaning protocols.
- We have installed the barriers so they don't introduce other risks to workers (e.g., barriers installed inside a vehicle don't affect the safe operation of the vehicle).

## Measures in place

### District Level:

- For workers interacting with individuals outside of their Learning Group, barriers should be considered where work areas cannot be rearranged or reconfigured to allow for distancing.
- Reconfiguration of spaces and tasks should be explored fully prior to placing a work order with Operations for installing a barrier. Any use of barriers should be listed below in the Site Level Section

### Site Level:

All itinerant teachers wear masks at all times  
Barrier at the office; students speak through window

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Third level protection (administrative): Rules and guidelines

- We have identified rules and guidelines for how workers should conduct themselves.
- We have clearly communicated these rules and guidelines to workers through a combination of training and signage.

Measures in place

District Level:

- Procedures are listed within:

- COVID-19 Orientation Powerpoint Slides.
- On Site Learning Procedures.
- Covid-19 Mandatory Protocol: Site Procedures - Stage 2 \*
- COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan.

- Orientation material has been created and will be distributed to all staff. Staff must review this material.

- A copy of On-Site Learning Procedures must be posted on site.

- Learning Groups will be created with staff/students to group risk and limit any potential spread as per BC Center for Disease Control Guidelines as an alternative to physical distancing.

- Signage to support procedures will be provided and posted on sites.

- Site Sign-in logs will have a column confirming that the individual has completed the health check. \*

Site Level:

*All signage posted as above .*

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Fourth level protection: Using masks (optional measure in addition to other control measures)

- We have reviewed the information on selecting and using masks and instructions on how to use a mask.
- We understand the limitations of masks to protect the wearer from respiratory droplets. We understand that masks should only be considered when other control measures cannot be implemented.
- We have trained workers in the proper use of masks.

### Measures in place

#### District Level:

- The selection and use of masks within in SD8 is driven by the recommendations of the BC CDC (COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings (February 23 2021)) which states: \*

*"Although personal protective equipment (including masks) is low on the Hierarchy of Infection Prevention and Exposure Control Measures, it can provide an additional layer of protection when more effective measures are not feasible. Masks have a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19. They provide some protection to the wearer and to those around them. The term 'mask' in this document means a non-medical mask or face covering. Medical-grade masks are not recommended within school settings for general use. "* \*

*Masks do not prevent the spread of COVID-19 on their own. They should not be used in place of physical distancing or any other measures noted in this guidance. Masks can be safely worn by school-aged children."* \*

- Staff and Students at SD8 will be provided with two (2) non-medical masks.
- Staff and Students (Middle & Highschool) are required to wear non-medical masks indoors except when when: \*
  - a) Sitting or standing at their seat or workstation in a classroom or learning space,
  - b) There is a barrier in place,
  - c) Eating or drinking.
- K-12 Staff may also remove their masks while maintaining physical distance (2M), in a classroom/learning environment\*
- All staff are required to wear masks in "Staff-Only" Areas unless socially distanced or a barrier is in place.\*
- No Student or Staff will be required to wear a mask if they do not tolerate it (for health or behavioral reasons) \*
- SD8 will provide sites with posters describing the use of masks.
- Masks are not required for Elementary School students; however, we strongly encourage everyone to wear a mask.

#### Site Level:

All staff wear masks in common areas and while mobile in classrooms  
Students wear a mask if they choose

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### Implement effective cleaning and hygiene practices

- We have reviewed the information on cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.
- Our workplace has enough handwashing facilities on site for all our workers. Handwashing locations are visible and easily accessed.
- We have policies that specify when workers must wash their hands and we have communicated good hygiene practices to workers. Frequent handwashing and good hygiene practices are essential to reduce the spread of the virus. [Handwashing and Cover coughs and sneezes posters are available at worksafebc.com.]
- We have implemented cleaning protocols for all common areas and surfaces — e.g., washrooms, tools, equipment, vehicle interiors, shared tables, desks, light switches, and door handles. This includes the frequency that these items must be cleaned (number of times per day) as well as the timing (before and after shift, after lunch, after use).
- Workers who are cleaning have adequate training and materials.
- We have removed unnecessary tools and equipment to simplify the cleaning process — e.g., coffee makers and shared utensils and plates

#### Cleaning protocols

##### District Level:

- Individuals are required to clean their own computers.
- Custodians are conducting cleaning and disinfecting of high touch point surfaces.
- Good Hygiene Practices (including Handwashing and Coughing/Sneezing Etiquette) have been detailed within the Exposure Control Plan and Orientation Documents
- Custodians will continue to be supplied with materials such as disinfectant and hand sanitizer.
- Disinfectant and hand sanitizer will be provided for all spaces that require it.

##### Site Level:

Students wash hands regularly  
Touchless hand sanitizing stations at all entry points in the school  
All surfaces in common areas are disinfected after use by each learning group.

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## Step 3: Develop policies

Develop the necessary policies to manage your workplace, including policies around who can be at the workplace, how to address illness that arises at the workplace, and how workers can be kept safe in adjusted working conditions.

Our workplace policies ensure that workers and others showing symptoms of COVID-19 are prohibited from the workplace.

- Anyone who has had symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days must self-isolate at home.
- Anyone who has been identified by Public Health as a close contact of someone with COVID-19.
- Anyone directed by Public Health to self-isolate.
- Anyone who has arrived from outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms.
- Visitors are prohibited or limited in the workplace.
- First aid attendants have been provided OFAA protocols for use during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We have a working alone policy in place (if needed).
- We have a work from home policy in place (if needed).
- Ensure workers have the training and strategies required to address the risk of violence that may arise as customers and members of the public adapt to restrictions or modifications to the workplace. Ensure an appropriate violence prevention program is in place.

Our policy addresses workers who may start to feel ill at work. It includes the following:

- Sick workers should report to first aid, even with mild symptoms.
- Sick workers should be asked to wash or sanitize their hands, provided with a mask, and isolated. Ask the worker to go straight home. [Consult the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, or call 811 for further guidance related to testing and self-isolation.]
- If the worker is severely ill (e.g., difficulty breathing, chest pain), call 911.
- Clean and disinfect any surfaces that the ill worker has come into contact with.

## Step 4: Develop communication plans and training

You must ensure that everyone entering the workplace, including workers from other employers, knows how to keep themselves safe while at your workplace.

- We have a training plan to ensure everyone is trained in workplace policies and procedures.
- All workers have received the policies for staying home when sick.
- We have posted signage at the workplace, including occupancy limits and effective hygiene practices. [A customizable occupancy limit poster and handwashing signage are available on worksafebc.com.]
- We have posted signage at the main entrance indicating who is restricted from entering the premises, including visitors and workers with symptoms.
- Supervisors have been trained on monitoring workers and the workplace to ensure policies and procedures are being followed.



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## Step 5: Monitor your workplace and update your plans as necessary

Things may change as your business operates. If you identify a new area of concern, or if it seems like something isn't working, take steps to update your policies and procedures. Involve workers in this process. **Reviewing and updating your COVID-19 safety plan: A guide for employers** will help you review your safety plan to ensure it's effective and functioning properly.

- We have a plan in place to monitor risks. We make changes to our policies and procedures as necessary.
- Workers know who to go to with health and safety concerns.
- When resolving safety issues, we will involve joint health and safety committees or worker health and safety representatives (or, in smaller workplaces, other workers).

## Step 6: Assess and address risks from resuming operations

If your workplace has not been operating for a period of time during the COVID-19 pandemic, you may need to manage risks arising from restarting your business.

- We have a training plan for new staff.
- We have a training plan for staff taking on new roles or responsibilities.
- We have a training plan around changes to our business, such as new equipment, processes, or products.
- We have reviewed the start-up requirements for vehicles, equipment, and machinery that have been out of use.
- We have identified a safe process for clearing systems and lines of product that have been out of use.

### **Be advised that personal information must not be included in the COVID-19 Safety Plan**

Personal information is any recorded information that uniquely identifies a person, such as name, address, telephone number, age, sex, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, fingerprints, or blood type. It includes information about a person's health care, educational, financial, criminal, or employment history. Visit <https://www.oipc.bc.ca/about/legislation/> for more information.