

## AP Appendix 4209: Communicable Disease Plan

The purpose of this Communicable Disease Plan is to safeguard the health and safety of our employees and students from Communicable Diseases. This Plan also provides a framework to implement additional specific controls to address specific communicable diseases during periods of elevated risk as determined by the Provincial Health Officer, a medical health officer or the BC Centre for Disease Control. Communicable diseases are illnesses caused by an infectious agent or its toxins that occur through the direct or indirect transmission of an infectious agent or its products from an infected individual or another vector.

This plan and any disease specific addendum produced from its framework, apply to all visitors, students, workers, contractors, and volunteers, unless otherwise noted. This plan would also be in place in all sites occupied by SD8.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Position of Person Responsible/Department	Task or Procedure
Superintendent or designate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure procedures are in place to support workers who have symptoms consistent with a communicable disease</li> <li>• Provide hand-hygiene facilities with appropriate supplies</li> <li>• Use procedures and signage to remind all persons to wash their hands regularly and to cover coughs and sneezes.</li> <li>• Maintain a clean environment through routine cleaning.</li> <li>• Ensure building ventilation systems are adequate for the use and that they are properly maintained.</li> <li>• Support workers in receiving vaccinations when a vaccine is available to control the spread and impact of the communicable disease.</li> </ul>
Supervisor/Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate, implement, and monitor communicable disease controls and protocols to ensure the health and safety of all workers under your direct supervision.</li> <li>• Ensure employees under your supervision are aware of the hazards identified within the Communicable Disease Plan (and any addendum) and the controls to address those hazards</li> <li>• Ensure employees under your supervision have the appropriate personal protective equipment, which is being used properly, regularly inspected and maintained.</li> </ul>
Employees/Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow safe work procedures where applicable.</li> <li>• Wear/Use protective clothing, devices, and equipment properly.</li> </ul>
JHSC Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide feedback to the Communicable Disease Plan (and addendum) when applicable.</li> <li>• Add Site specific details to the Communicable Disease Plan (where required) to make it fit their unique environments.</li> <li>• Receive concerns from workers and address these concerns appropriately.</li> </ul>

<b>Students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow safe work procedures where applicable.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow safe work procedures where applicable.</li> </ul>

## 1. General Controls

1.1 General controls implemented under this Communicable Disease Plan are effective at reducing many different types of communicable disease transmission. These measures are not unique to periods of elevated risk and will be in place throughout the year.

## 2. Sick Workers

- 2.1 The district will support staff who need to be absent from work due to symptoms of a communicable disease. Through Collective Agreement Language, Contract Language and the Employment Standards Act, all SD8 staff accrue “sick time”. This sick time should be used by staff who are sick to avoid spreading communicable diseases in the workplace.
- 2.2 Staff who are experiencing symptoms of a communicable disease (that is not explained by other conditions) should not remain at the workplace.

## 3. Cleaning

- 3.1 The district will ensure that it maintains a clean environment through routine cleaning processes appropriate to the education sector. Custodians are present and working in all sites and will be supported to ensure that a clean environment is maintained. Additional cleaning or disinfecting will also be implemented where appropriate due to periods of elevated risk, or patterns of illness within the school facility.
- 3.2 Custodians will follow Universal Precautions when cleaning or handling bodily fluids. During periods of elevated risk, the risks posed by exposure to bodily fluids will also be assessed.

## 4. Ventilation

4.1 The district will ensure that building ventilation systems are in good operating order and that preventative maintenance is performed where appropriate. This includes ensuring that systems meet design conditions for airflow, temperature, humidity, and other design parameters. Consideration will be given to upgrades and repairs of HVAC systems within the facilities planning process and applications to Ministry of Education funding.

## 5. Vaccines

5.1 In the event that a communicable disease has a vaccine that has been demonstrated to reduce transmission or severity of the communicable disease, the district will support staff in receiving this vaccine.

## 6. Periods of Elevated Risk

6.1 During periods of elevated risk of communicable diseases, the Medical Health Officer (MHO) or Provincial Health Officer (PHO) may provide information and guidance about the risk and how this risk can be reduced. During such periods SD8 may elect to create an addendum under this

plan. This plan will include available information on the risk of the communicable disease (as provided by the MHO, PHO, BC CDC or other reputable public health entity).

## 7. Infection prevention and exposure control measures

7.1 Information on how education, Aboriginal and inclusion supports will be impacted and any strategies to be implemented to offset the impact of this plan to students and families. Impacts to be considered can include but are not limited to:

- 7.1.1 Classroom delivery;
- 7.1.2 School events;
- 7.1.3 Community events;
- 7.1.4 Aboriginal education supports;
- 7.1.5 Inclusion supports;
- 7.1.6 Transportation;
- 7.1.7 International program, and;
- 7.1.8 School sports

8. This addendum will be developed and implemented as soon as information is received by the district from the Medical Health Officer or the Provincial Health Officer. The Superintendent or designate will create the addendum based on this information and a Communications and Training Plan will be developed to ensure that all workers are trained in the contents of the addendum (where appropriate).

9. In the event of a period of elevated risk resulting in the need for an addendum to this plan, this addendum will also be communicated out to staff.

10. Records kept under this plan include:

- 10.1 All disease specific addenda
- 10.2 District communications to staff;
- 10.3 Orientation and training presentations, and;
- 10.4 Training records will be maintained for five years from the date of implementation.

11. This procedure will be reviewed as required to maintain currency.